WORLD SOCCER

The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

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SEPTEMBER 1974

MARIC (left) and KATALINSKI
Jugoslavia

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The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

England's new team manager DON REVIE in an exclusive WORLD SOCCER interview with Leslie Vernon

A WIND of change is blowing through the hitherto dusty corridors of English football. A visit to the F.A. offices in Lancaster Gate has confirmed my belief that the new administration in general, and the Croker-Revie tandem in particular will, in time, vastly improve our entire set-up. There are far-reaching plans in the pipeline, involving coaching, the building of a modern football academy, the streamlining of fixtures and many other vital aspects of the game. There is certainly a greater awareness of the importance of international football and of establishing a cordial relationship with the communication media.

In the recent past, the task of interviewing the national team manager has been a chore, with suspicion hanging heavily in the air. The then incumbent Sir Alf was, by nature, apprehensive, and I felt under obligation, because after the protracted telephone calls, one was made to feel merely tolerated, but not wholly welcome. Don Revie, of course, is a different personality. Absolutely sure of himself, he doesn't need a protective disguise. When I first 'phoned him with a request for a chat on behalf of this August publication, he said: "I haven't had time to breathe since I took this job. Never mind, come and see me next Friday at 9.30 a.m."

What did he say? Half past nine in the morning? That an England manager should be in his office at such an unearthly hour pleasantly surprised me. This guy really means business—he is working! The pretty receptionist who took my card was a marked improvement on the crusty old retainer who used to drink his tea underneath the picture of the Tottenham v Burnley Cup Final in the old building. Looking at it with hindsight, the appointment of Don Revie was inevitable, once he applied for the job. His credentials are not only impeccable, but also immeasurably superior to that of any other prospective candidate. In the cosy office, drinking a cup of coffee (yet another sign of genuine hospitality) we talked football for an absorbing hour.

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FRONT COVER PICTURE

Johan Neeskens (left) of Holland and Bonhof of West Germany pictured by Peter Robinson during the 1974 World Cup Final.

by Eric Batty

Internat has res which m

FIFA has a new President and, at a stroke, swarms of people have kittens. Being I am by nature a critic and, through experience, have become something of a cynic, my position at the moment is totally neutral.

The new President, Joao Havelange has one thing in his favour (his age) if nothing else and my feelings are . . . wait and see. I've never been an admirer of the FA, UEFA, FIFA institutions, largely because the men with the power to make or break the game at every level are generally somewhat ancient.

But whether one is pro-Rous or anti-Havelange, it must be clear to everyone that the game everywhere faces real problems, and my attitude will develop according to the actions FIFA now takes under Mr. Havelange's guidance. At FIFA level the biggest responsibilities concern the International Board, the body that makes decisions on proposed changes to the Laws of the game and the organisation of the World Cup.

As far as the Board is concerned one can only hope that whoever sits on it they will have the good sense not to monkey too much with the Laws. There was, in fact, a real chance that this might have been done, particularly with regard to the offside law for Sir Stanley actively backed several experiments.

Problems

The answer to the problems facing the game are to be found in the hearts of the managers and coaches, in the attitude of the players and within the Board rooms of the clubs. It will not help anyone to tinker with the offside Law in the hope that it will lead to more goals being scored.

With regard to the World Cup, Mr. Havelange already has his share of problems for the next competition in Argentina in 1978 throws up many complex issues and not least those put into circulation by his own ideas.

It seems fair at this point, to mention that one of the possible problems—the threat to force a Great Britain entry on the four British Associations was never in the mind of Havelange. That I was assured by a CBD official in Frankfurt shortly after the critical FIFA vote, was never in his mind. Presumably it was dreamed up by British newspapers as part of a campaign to help keep Sir Stanley at the helm of FIFA, or merely because it was a good story and helps to stir up interest and sell papers.

However, having said that, it seems clear that in casting his net for votes Mr. Havelange spent a great deal of time in the third world and it appears that a 20 country World Cup in 1978 is part of the deal he made for support.

I am not one to knock the developing football countries of Africa and Asia—indeed I would advocate aid on a gigantic scale. But as regular readers will remember, my position on greater representation in the World Cup Final stages is simply that qualification should be on the basis of quality and not geographical zones.

This problem has been developing for some time with the growth of CONCACEF (Central America), Afr Federation and the Asia and Oce Federations. As their numbers have s led they have had an ever-growing v in World football affairs and as the tion of Mr. Havelange indicates it is of critical importance.

What baffles me is why no com policy between Europe and S America has been developed on issue. It is not a political issue ei for both Eastern and Western Eu have a football tradition and one w have thought a common interest in se the game develop on the right lines.

One of the best pictures to come out of the World Cup . . . Muamba Kazadi, the Zaire goalkeeper, appeals to his colleague Mwepu not to tread on the fallen Denis Law of Scotland. Fortunately for Law the charm worked.

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is also true of the South American countries who may be under-developed in some senses but have played a vital and important role in the growth of the game. The European cause is as much the cause of Brazil and Argentina, assuming that they too want things to be well ordered and well organised.

In terms of experience it is clear that countries like Haiti and Zaire lie far behind the Europeans who had the game organised on a sound footing even in the 19th Century. A glance at FIFA's own figures shows that almost 14 million of the world's players in a total of less than 18 million registered with FIFA through their national associations . . . are in Europe. A similar percentage of registered clubs lies in Europe — more than 200,000 of a total 272,459.

What I believe FIFA should do is encourage and aid the game in Africa, Asia and Oceania by sponsoring trips to Europe and South America — both at club and national team level — and footing the bills where losses are incurred. Similary large grants could be allocated to help provide more playing pitches in countries where they are lacking and courses in coaching, refereeing and club administration should be organised on an ever-growing scale.

Development

It will cost money, of course, but FIFA makes plenty from the World Cup and their cut from all international matches staged throughout the world. Let them help the development of the game where it really counts. What the developing countries lack above all is money . . . and facilities. One should bring the other.

Unfortunately I cannot see this idea getting much support so instead they are being promised greater participation in the decision making, more representation in the World Cup final stages and that is the direction of disaster. We have already seen in the 1974 World Cup how lacking in experience the lesser countries referees are.

Without embarassing people by naming names I saw one referee handling a World Cup match in Germany who obviously wouldn't have recognised an advantage if it had taken root, grown wings and punched him straight in the face. This particular referee was clearly out of his depth and terrified that he would make a mistake.

Another match produced a linesman who was completely lacking in understanding either in the duties of a linesman or of the off side Law. Luckily for him, his obvious incompetence was quickly spotted by the referee (a European) and from then on he left the other half very largely to the other European linesman and spent his time almost exclusively in one half, thus preventing what might have been a nasty incident between a South American and a European team had an offside goal been allowed.

Stage

One of the great problems for 1978 concerns the timing of the World Cup to be staged in Argentina. According to my information, the Argentinian's first proposal was to stage the competition in January!

One must remember that Argentina is in the Southern hemisphere which means that the seasons are reversed compared with Europe. But even after the position of the Europeans regarding January had been recognised the Argentinian's second proposal is still unsatisfactory as far as European football is concerned.

The last I heard was that Argentina proposed starting the World Cup at the end of August or beginning of September, 1978.

Apart from the timing it seems that we are going to see 20 teams take part in the next competition. How the extra four places are allocated and when the competition is held could determine the attitude of the European Associations towards FIFA and inevitably Mr. Havelange.

It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that many if not all the European countries could withdraw from the 1978 series altogether. These are the two critical issues facing the new FIFA President . . . WHEN and FOR WHOM will the 1978 tournament be held.

June and July are clearly the best months for European football but August is a possibility. September could see the British Associations up in arms and perhaps standing alone, but any other time is out unless FIFA suggests January, taking up Argentina's original proposal. This could suit countries in Eastern and Central Europe who have a winter break but I would think that the Swiss, the Austrians and perhaps a few more countries in Central Europe would recognise the long term issues involved and vote with Western Europe.

We have already seen the Olympic Games soccer tournament slide to a point at which Western Europe has largely bowed out. It would be a tragedy if the World Cup should go the same way.

Ten years ago, Western Europe would have had cause for concern if their presence in the World Cup was threatened. Now with a fluorishing European championship already firmly established they may not be so concerned if FIFA gives Africa, Asia, Oceania and Concacef a bigger part in the World Cup, even though they might miss their share of the financial spoils.

My own view is simply stated: let the 16 or 20 nations that prove themselves take part in the final stages—and this means an end to zoning. We already have a precedent in FIFA's decision that brought Chile and the Soviet Union together in one final qualifying stage for 1974.

My proposal is that two places be set aside for the likes of Mexico, the U.S.A., the Africans and Asians, etc. Let them play out their own qualifying competition, initially on a regional basis to keep travel costs down as far as possible.

Then, after two have qualified let those that failed have another crack at qualifying by participating in groups that will also include European and South American opposition. If this were done we might find New Zealand, Honduras and Nigeria (assuming they all failed to claim one of the two special places) meeting England, Bulgaria and Brazil in the qualifying competition.

JOHAN CRUYFF (Barcelona and Holland) writes

Life for a player can be hard

ANYONE who believes that there aren't managers in the game who order one of their hard defenders to kick a key forward out of a match is either simply naive or, like the ostrich, burying his head in the sand.

There are players in all corners of the world whose sole claim to fame is that they have regularly snuffed out the opposing sides' star forwards by foul means. I know this and I can assure you I speak from experience.

This state of affairs does, of course, often make the life of a ball player intolerable. Intolerable because not only is the ball artist risking serious injury every time he sets foot on the football field, but also from the retaliation side of things.

I suppose like me you've seen a forward brutally fouled by an unscrupulous defender, behind the referee's back. The forward then retaliates and is duly sent off for his pains. I think I am probably right in saying that this kind of occurrence happens every week from as far south as Argentina to as far north as Scotland.

Temper

And I must say that not so long ago I often found myself in a referee's bad books for doing something which every professional should learn not to do, namely letting my temper get the better of me.

I remember reading an article by Geoff Hurst some years ago in which he said: "Although on many occasions I become utterly sick and tired of being hacked to pieces, I have learned to live with it. Now I hardly ever find that robust marking upsets me. You only get yourself into more trouble if you retaliate."

There never was a truer statement. And in a way I think he was also trying to say that it is still possible to enjoy your football nowadays if you deal with the kickers in a correct manner.

What I do is this: As there is no point starting a stand-up fight on the field, you've got to show your contempt for the thugs by showing to the crowd what bad players they in fact are. And the way to do this is to turn on all the skills you possess and make a complete monkey out of the guy.

This means therefore that you have got to practice even harder at improving the skills you have. For example if I know I am going to be marked by a really ruthless defender in my next match, I practice hard all week at perfecting new tricks which could come in handy.

Frankly this present state of affairs has made me enjoy my football even more now than I used to when I was a teenager. Nowadays I simply can't wait to get on the field and come face-to-face with my enemy and make a fool of him. Kicking the ball through the legs of a tough defender and running round him is one of my particular favourites. Another one is flicking the ball over his head and watching his face as he stands there flat-footed, looking ridiculously confused.

I suppose in a funny kind of way the "play the man not the ball" defenders have made me a better all-round player, because without them I probably wouldn't have bothered so much with improving my ball skills. They have also helped me in another way.

As I mentioned earlier, not so long ago I tended to let my emotions get out of hand if I happened to be the victim of a particularly nasty foul. And the fact that there seem to be more dirty defenders than clean ones has made it necessary for me to cut out any tantrums on the field and settle down to what I am paid for, playing football.

The lesson I have learned from my experiences at the hands of vicious defenders will I hope influence other ball-players.

Because if they do what I have done, in other words destroy the villains with their skills and not their fists, I am convinced they will enjoy their football as much as I do.

(From Gregory Tesser)

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DOWN WITH THE THIRD WORLD

says Brian Glanvil

"I BROUGHT into existence the New World," boasted Canning, one hundred and fifty years ago, "to redress the balance of the Old." It now seems that Joao Havelange, like it or not our new FIFA President, might say that he has brought into existence the Third World, to redress the balance of them both. Were he to say so, he would not be telling the whole of the story, for as we well know, Senor Havelange has in fact used the Third World quite blatantly and shrewdly (if that be the word) in favour of himself, and his election as President of FIFA.

Since that election, he has, predictably, been considerably less intransigent towards Europe, knowing full well that that way, disaster lies. The futuous dispositions of FIFA, in which the equivalent of universal suffrage makes Guinea as good as Italy, Fiji as good as France, while still menacing the existence of the four United Kingdom countries as separate entities, gives Africa more votes than Europe. But they haven't remotely the same playing and economic power, and were Europe ever to withdraw, that would be the end of FIFA. Havelange would find himself merely the King, or the President, of a t parody of what used to be.

One of the first things to happ his regime was the bending of t rules and the stretching of branch towards Red China. written before in these pages a problem, and my views on it. At of writing, it is perfectly cl Havelange cannot wait to get R into FIFA and, by the sam cannot wait to get Taiwan out.

Let me say at once that poli favour neither one nor the othe think it a dreadful shame tha China, Red China, Communis call it what you will, is not, teeming footballers, a member that the ideal situation woul both of them to belong.

The trouble is, as we know, China won't come in so long a is a member. Until immediately World Cup Final, it was an o any member country of FIFA teams from Red China. FIFA th the most extraordinary dis which makes it very hard to t seriously or to view them with respect.

Punished

They said, if you remem China (let us solve our proble by referring to them as such; slightly absurd to think of Formosa, that mere if sizeable China) would not be permitte in the ensuing Asian Games tournament in Teheran; but if play and other FIFA membe against them, they would not i be punished!

In other words, a rule implemented, but we were to same breath that it would enforced! God help us if th Havelange, is going to repr smack of firm government.

Havelange himself announce planned to visit China, which a manifest step towards r them. It was also a sizeable ste

6 Meeting in Puerto Rica they kicked out Taiwan for misusing name of China 9

expropriating Taiwan: and just how easy it is to do this was shown in the meantime by a revolting cynical move by the International Basketball Federation.

Meeting in Puerto Rico, they solved their problem simply by kicking out Taiwan, on the grounds — grounds? — that they had been misusing the name of China. If you are going to stoop as low as this, why wait so long: there must have been a thousand similar expedients?

Taiwan, perhaps, had played without pigtails: or with them. They had adulterated their bamboo soup. They had repudiated, or accepted, the philosophy of Confucius. They had publicly burned Mao's Little Red Book. What horrified and astonished me was how limply the decision (I am still striving to be polite) of the International Basketball Federation was accepted by the world at large. It was merely recorded without, so far as I could see — I do not, alas, receive the Formosan Press — a word of criticism, a breath of healthy condemnation.

Power

So, after Senhor Havelange, eternally all things to all men, all things, if you prefer it, to all worlds, has made his trip to China and been duly feted, we may assume that Taiwan will be kicked out of FIFA; for misusing the name of China, or for whatever fatuously irrelevant reason you please. At the FIFA Congress in Frankfurt, there was much yammering on the subject from the Third World delegates; not least from that mighty football power Kuwait, and even, most surprisingly, from India; unless the report in the *Corriere Dello Sport* be wrong.

Sir Stanley Rous' reply to China's insistence that Taiwan be thrown out before they come back themselves was always the same. What have they done wrong? Poor, naive, Old World (not Third World) figure, it was beyond his poor, decent wits to see that they had misused the name of China. What a deplorable lack of subtlety and insight!

The fact is that Taiwan have offended in no way at all; except in so far as they are blocking the readmission of a much larger country than their own, with potentially a far greater contribution to make to the world game. But so long as Communist China sticks stubbornly and spitefully to its present position, the only way FIFA can get them back into the fold is by sinking to the stratagems of the International Basketball Association. Blood and Iron. *Realpolitik*, Nausea.

Disposable

Havelange, among whose more superbly irrelevant and disposable ideas is that of a World Cup for the Under 21s, surely a supreme idiocy in these days of too much football, is proving rather more malleable about the number of teams which will play in future World Cups. He is now decently prepared to concede that there need be only 16 in the 1982 competition. He feels that it is important for Argentina to have 20 teams, because otherwise the expense will be ruinous for them.

From there it is only a short step, which he may yet be forced to take, to concede that the extra four teams need not be dud teams from the Third World, with no more right to be there than had Zaire and Haiti in West Germany. He has already promised that there will be at least ten teams from Europe. Promises, promises. More, I assure you, will be extracted from him by the Europeans, long before that World Cup takes place in Argentina: if it ever does.

But in the long run, FIFA and its European components have only themselves to blame if they have to put up with Havelange, his half-baked, ill conceived, grandiose schemes, and the nuisance value of the Third World he brings trailing behind him. It should have been seen long ago that a one country, one vote system would lay FIFA wide open to corruption, demagogy and the prevalence of what Rudyard Kipling would have called the Banderlog.

Admiration

I yield to nobody in my admiration for the immense talents of African footballers; Coluna, Eusebio, Keita, Pokou, and all the many more that are to come. I have no admiration at all for the half-baked, over politicised, self interested administration of African football at large.

Ex Africa, semper aliquid novum, said Pliny. Out of Africa, always something new. When that something is Eusebio or Pokou, then Hallelujah. When it is the Zaire World Cup team or the ranting bigotry of its representatives to FIFA, I feel rather less inclined to applaud.

Breitner moves

Real Madrid have signed Paul Breitner from Bayern Munich for a fee of £420,000. Breitner, 22 years old, has signed a three year contract. He played for West Germany in both their World Cup and European Championship successes but was rumoured to be contemplating retirement in the near future. Full story next month.

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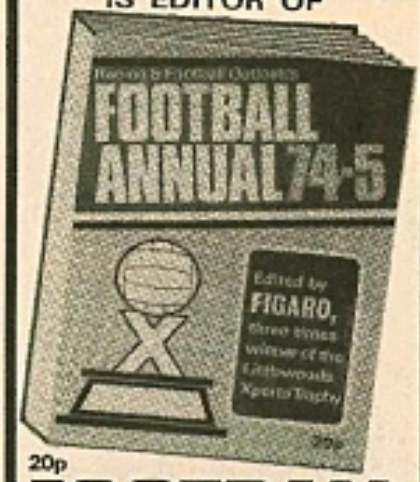
(Sporting Life Xperts table)
IS EDITOR OF



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KAZIMIERZ DEYNA talks to WORLD SOCCER

WE OWE MUCH TO MR GMOCH

Question: Germany 1974 saw Poland establishing themselves as the third best team in the world, a crowning achievement for a side of amateurs. To what do you attribute this success?

Answer: I think we owe a great deal to our coach Jacek Gmoch. Throughout the tournament his enthusiasm and confidence proved so infectious that it undoubtedly rubbed off on all the players in our squad. He is also very thorough with his pre-match planning. For example before every game in Germany he drew diagrams, showing in great detail the necessary moves we should use to outplay the opposition. I also think that our use of orthodox wingers surprised many of the defences we came up against — they simply weren't used to them, especially the ultra-defensive Italians. But on the whole I remain convinced that we owe our success to Mr. J. Gmoch.

Poland's vital match against West Germany was played in appalling conditions, and many a critic said at the time that if the Poles had started at the drier end, they would have led at half-time. Do you agree with this view?

My agreeing with them would surely be interpreted as a severe case of making excuses. It is true that we in Poland are unused to playing in such atrocious conditions, but if a side is to do well in a major international competition, it has got to learn to cope with all kinds of climatic differences.

With Grzegroz Lato and Robert Gadocha, Poland proved that wingers can flourish in modern football. Why do you think wingers aren't more prevalent nowadays?

Until the safety-first attitude goes out of the game, something which is particularly evident in European club competition, wingers will never return en masse. Nevertheless, looking on the brighter side, I now believe that the fact we did so well in the World Cup is bound to influence the more defence-dominated countries.

In the initial group stage, Poland were the only side to gain a maximum six points, and they also scored the greatest number of goals, 12 to be exact. An impressive record by anybody's standard. . . .

We certainly played our best all-round football in the first round, and in retrospect I think we owe a great deal to Argentina. You see, before the Finals got under way, we were, to put it mildly, apprehensive. We felt we'd reached our peak against England, and as we were not used to playing against South American sides, the Argentine game probably made our players more nervous than even the qualifying tie with England.

I say that Argentina did us a service because it was only due to their defensive lapses early in the match that we led 2-0. And even though t a tremendous fight, we still i in hand to come out on game did us a power of goo we realised that we were doing well against any style

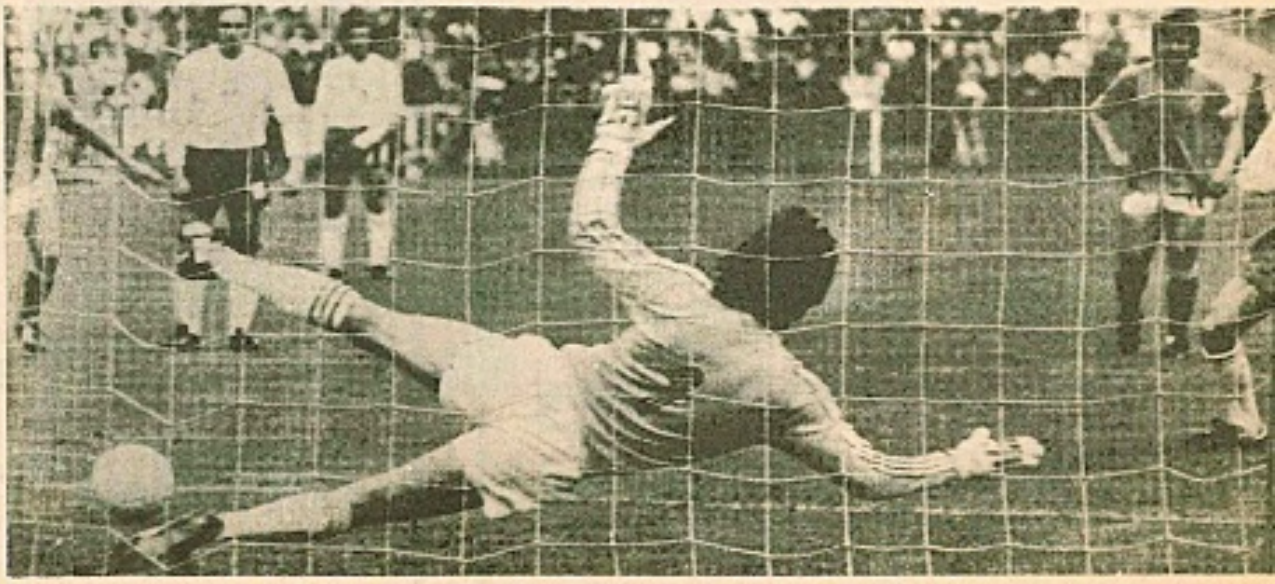
Undoubtedly the Argentin sive blunders gave us all the we needed, and from then on had to improve. So, our gal mum points came as no surp whatsoever.

During the tournament, complained of being tired, match against Yugoslavia they though they were past their much was this due to the heav

Certainly not as much as intimated! Of course in Pola not used to playing on saturated pitches, but our so fit that I don't think tha of the grounds ever affected

But under these conditions most strongly that the mat have been postponed for a hours.

●Continued o



Polish captain Kazimierz Deyna slots home a penalty against Yugoslavia.

New trainers in Portugal

BOTH Sporting Lisbon and Benfica, the champions and runners-up respectively, have availed themselves of new trainers. Sporting have signed the former Real Madrid maestro of their halycon days in the European Cup, Alfredo Di Stefano and Benfica have taken on the Yugoslavian Milorav Pavic in a similar role.

Di Stefano left Valencia at the end of last season after four years at the helm. He had guided them to the championship in his first season but four years is a long time for anyone to stay with one club on the Continent.

Earlier he had had similar success with Boca Juniors in Argentina when he managed them to a championship triumph.

Di Stefano was pursued by Sporting's President Joao Rocha while the team was on tour in America. At present he only has a contract for one season but there is an option for another.

He will have as his second in command Osvaldo Silva, the former player and a Brazilian.

Pavic has the task of helping Benfica to recapture the title from Sporting. They have been on an extensive tour of Canada, North America, Mexico and back to Europe. At the same time they have been actively engaged in the transfer market signing the Guimaraes left winger Ibrahim and capturing the CUF Barreiro goalkeeper Conbe.

Technician

Porto, under Brazilian trainer Aimore Moreira have made a couple of useful signings, too, in Portuguese international Jill back from Belenenses and Duda the Brazilian striker from Setubal who is an excellent technician and goalscorer.

For their part Belenenses have lost their Argentinian trainer Alejandro Scopelli who has returned home and has been replaced by his No. 2 Peres Bandeira, a Portuguese. There is also a possibility that that familiar figure in Portugal over the years, the Chilean Fernando Riera, may take over newly-promoted Sporting D'Espinho. Reira had two spells in charge of Benfica in the 60s and was the man who led Chile to third place in the 1962 World Cup.

As a result of the promotion and relegation test matches, Atletico Lisbon will be promoted to Division One, Leixoes stay there, Beira Mar descend to Division Two and Fafe stay in the Second Division.

BRUGES TEMPT RINUS ISRAEL

FC BRUGES were hoping to persuade the Feyenoord World Cup player Rinus Israel to sign for them. At the age of 32 the veteran centre back of the Dutch champions was retired as is the custom in Holland.

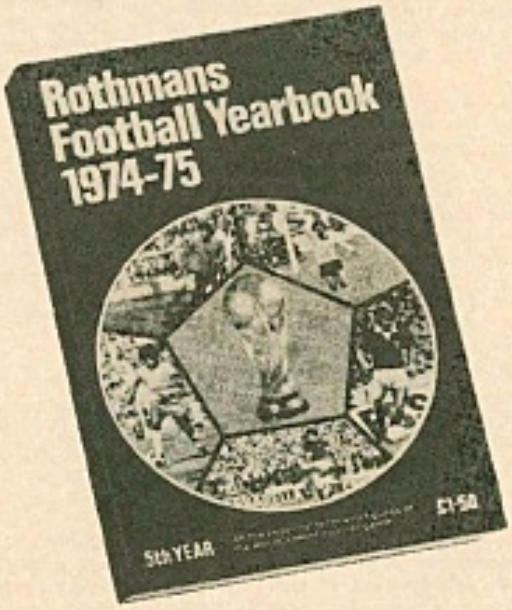
But Israel did not want to move outside his own country and has decided instead to sign for newly-promoted Excelsior.

RWD Molenbeek appear to be suffering from their old malady of not being able to score goals. In one of their matches in Spain during the close season they did creditably well to hold Atletico Bilbao to a goal-less draw but since they drew 13 games last season in the championship then their failings over the past two seasons do not seem solved.

Which famous modern team used to play on Plumstead Common?

Which was the first team to win three consecutive First Division titles?

Rothmans Football Yearbook has the answers.



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Schon stays in his post

Muller, Grabowski and Breitner threaten international retirement

THE biggest surprise for me among the plethora of retirement announcements which cascaded virtually before Jack Taylor had blown the World Cup's final whistle was not the identity of the declared defectors, but the name which has so far been missing.

Helmut Schon, the West German manager, has as yet refrained from relinquishing his post.

Gerd Muller says he is retiring from the national team; so do Wolfgang Overath and Jurgen Grabowski; so does Paul Breitner, whose career, at 23, has still barely begun.

For Muller, not yet 29, the reasons are straightforward. He wants to put more time towards playing for Bayern, and looking after both his family and his business interests.

It is a familiar theme: club before country. As Muller has pointed out, Bayern have such a heavy programme of Cup and League matches, but above all friendlies, that the pressures are too heavy to bear indefinitely.

"No-one can go on playing night and day for ever," he said, after announcing his decision to play just once more for the World Champions.

And, after all, club soccer is far more rewarding financially than international success. Muller, having scored the winning goal in the World Cup Final, can hardly achieve anything more to boost the already astronomic value of his name in the advertising market.

Ambitions

The decisions of Grabowski—30 on Final day—and Overath, to pull out of the national team are equally understandable, if equally sad.

Overath particularly, has sweated out a key role in three World Cups, has reached the pinnacle of success and clearly feels that, at nearly 31, his ambitions largely fulfilled, it is time to start winding down a career which has brought more problems than pleasure for him.

The persistence of the "boo-boys" when he plays away from home, and the rumoured rivalry with the Bayern stars have been heavy crosses for Overath to bear, and with 81 caps—only Kaiser Franz has more—he too thinks that going out on top is the most honourable solution.

Family reasons are Grabowski's excuse, but it is Breitner's threat which is the most intriguing. He wants to pick up the studies broken off when Bayern signed him in 1970. Hopefully he can find some method of combining his long-term ambitions with a full programme of club and international soccer.

It would be tragic for West Germany if Breitner eventually went the way of Jurgen Werner, the brilliant Hamburg wing half who faced a similar dilemma when full-time professionalism came in, in the early 1960s, and was forced to leave the game altogether. Breitner, though, is a young man with a strong social conscience—the lure of cash is not the only thing in life.

A different attitude has been expressed by 30-year-old Sepp Maier, whose excellent reflex saves pulled the West Germans through both against Poland and Holland.

Will you retire now? he was asked.

"No," he replied. "Not quite yet. I have to play at least another three seasons to be able to afford to retire."

Surprised

I thought Maier and Holland's Jan Jongbloed suitable counterparts in the Final; Maier can't catch and Jongbloed can't punch, but the West Germans even surprised his team-mates with some of the stops he made

At least all these semi-retirements—if adhered to—will force the West Germans into a thorough renovation in the attempt to retain the European Championship. It clear in the World Cup that the 1972 side was bursting apart at the seams, and the patchwork repairs effected by Schon—or was it Beckenbauer?—were barely enough to ensure victory.

Retirement

But will that rebuilding task be taken up by Schon, or will he retire? He has now completed 101 matches in charge (won 67, drawn 18, lost 16) and he cannot achieve anything more. Indeed, his impending retirement was the first such announcement I expected to hear after the final.

For a start, Schon, now 59, had a major stomach operation four years ago and has not been in the best of health since. On match days he becomes so nervous that he has to go onto a special milk diet, and of course he was prematurely aged overnight by the problems attendant on the World Cup.

First Erwin Kremers had to be
of the squad as an example, afte
sent off in the season's last league
And both before and since—and
variety of subjects—have come the
embarrassing outbursts of Franz
bauer.

**Certainly in the past Schon has allo
senior players a remarkably free
dictate tactics, but in any other circum
and with any other player, such ou
bluntness must surely have cost him r
the captaincy but his place in the tea**

There was much unnecessary bad
created too before the Sweden g
Dusseldorf when Schon failed to ap
a Press conference. Journalists were
off with the excuse that Schon felt
important to attend training. In f
that time, training had finished. Sch
been forced to duck out because
not feeling well.

As an inside forward he won
before his career was ruined first
and then by a knee injury. But
around long enough to earn a backh
compliment from East German boss
Buschner, his contemporary.

Asked whether he or Schon had b
better player, Buschner replied: "
Schon was a football player; I was
back."

Schon managed the Saar team
1953-4 posed acute problems for e
World Cup winners West Germany
qualifying rounds, and became as
national manager two years later.
he was appointed No.1 on the reti
of Sepp Herberger and took West Ge
to the World Cup final in 1966, thirc
in 1970, the European Champions
1972, and this summer to the Worl
itself. Now he has the chance to go
the highest note possible—the
opportunity to give his successor ma
time to prepare for the next World
whoever may organise it, and wher
may be played.

**To step down after a World Cup
would have made it appear that Sch
running away. No-one dare say that**

by Keir Radnedge

West German manager Helmut Schön, with his national skipper Franz Beckenbauer.

DON REVIE

"What attracted you to this very difficult job?"

"It was a hard decision to make. I have been saying for years that my aim in football is to win the European Cup with Leeds United. But suddenly this job became available, and after working for thirteen-and-a-half years in club management, I felt that I needed a new challenge. It is a terrific honour to be in charge of the national team. I am already faced with completely new problems—it is very exciting, stimulating."

"Do you miss the day-to-day involvement with players? After all, this season is the very first in which you were not involved with pre-season preparations on some level".

"Up-to-now, I have been so busy that I have had no time to "miss" anything. Later-on perhaps I might feel that I would like to be involved with players, but this is unimportant."

"How do you rate the present England squad?"

"I am not going to talk about individuals, but the players have a very difficult time in English football. Our First Division is certainly the best balanced, hardest in the world. Managers are forced to play for results. They simply can't affort to be adventurous. That is why we see so much negative football in the league.

"The Dutch and the W. Germans were prepared to push forward defenders in the World Cup. Even when they lost the ball, or more precisely, when they passed the ball, these defenders stayed up with the attack. English defensive players would get rid of the ball, and then run straight back to take-up their usual positions. Of course, the Dutch and the Germans leave themselves wide open at times at the back, but this philosophy makes their football more enjoyable for the spectators."

"What playing formation do you favour for the England team?"

"I have no pre-conceived ideas. I shall work out the system depending on the players chosen for any particular game. We shall use wingers if we have good enough players to fill those positions. But we must be more positive, adventurous and attack-minded. I want not only a winning team, but one which excites the public's imagination, and has a good influence on our football as a whole."

"Yes, but aren't you restricted to the players you get ready-made from other coaches?"

> *'I shall work out the system depending on the players chosen for any game'*

"This is always the case. But I shall have long talks with all the leading managers, and will be very interested to hear their views concerning their own players. I shall pay particular attention to the 22-24 age group. We are building for the next World Cup, and these are the boys who will supply the bulk of the squad for Argentina—if we qualify.

Squad

"How often do you intend to watch candidates for the squad?"

"I shall see 4-5 matches per week on every possible level. On Thursdays and Fridays, when there are no games, I shall visit clubs, spend a few hours with the managers and talk with the players."

"Will your team selections depend on club form or on previous performances in the national side?"

"On both. I would not like to be dogmatic about this, but we must give the younger players a proper opportunity to establish themselves in the England team".

"Do you plan any training-camp get-togethers during the season?"

"At the moment, this is practically impossible. Our first fixture is the European Championship match against Czechoslovakia on October 30. Up until then, every midweek there are fixtures involving the leading clubs. Nevertheless, I will get the squad together perhaps a couple of times on a Saturday night, and spend the Sunday discussing tactics—but no physical training will be done.

Still, I did have a very friendly, fruitful discussion with Mr. Alan Hardacre, Secretary of the Football League, and he promised me full co-operation for the 1976/77 and 1977/78 seasons. My aim is to qualify for South America, and those two years will be vital.

"I cannot emphasise enough the importance of the World Cup. A successful campaign affects the league gates, and is a tremendous boost for our football. It is also good for trade, a great propaganda for the country, improes our standing in the world."

Inferior

"Would you like to arrange training matches against inferior opposition, as is the habit of Continental teams?"

"Yes, we have done that often at Leeds. These games give the players confidence, instils in them the habit of scoring goals, and is a good opportunity to try out tactical ploys, new moves. But at present, we have no time to play such games. For example, I will get the squad on the Sunday—three days before the Czech match."

"How important is the European Championship?"

"Very, very important. But there is no use in winning it, if afterwards we cannot qualify for the World Cup. I will learn everything I can about our group opponents, and will watch international football frequently. Knowing your opposition thoroughly is half the battle. I hope to find the right blend for World Cup 1978 during the European Championship matches!"

Impression

"Your impression of the last World Cup?"

"It was not as good a tournament as the 1966 or 1970 series. Too much fear inhibited many of the teams. I was impressed with the West Germans and especially with Holland. But I feel that we could have coped with the others. Mind you, in 1978, both the hosts, Argentina and Brazil, will be very dangerous opponents.

"The refereeing standards must improve. I would like to see the top officials of every country brought together at least four times a year to thrash out various problems, and the vexed question of interpretation of the laws of the game. However, I was pleased to note that only two players (Cruyff, Overath) were cautioned for dissent during the entire tournament.

...in an exclusive WORLD SOCCER interview with Leslie Vernon

"The card system is okay for an international tournament with language problems, but in a domestic context, I wouldn't favour it. But the over-commercialisation of the World Cup really sickened me. Players must not be involved with these matters during the most important competition of their careers. All financial deals, whether they involve bonuses, advertising or whatever, must be settled well before the opening match."

"Are you in favour of 20 Finalists?"

"Certainly not. 16 is quite enough. I would do away with the geographical seeding as well. Let the 16 best teams contest the Finals. Countries like Zaire and Haiti must earn a place amongst the footballing elite of the world. It is ludicrous to make it possible for, let's say, Australia to qualify, while Spain, Hungary, Belgium are eliminated.

"This is not a sour-grapes' view, but I think that the World Cup is too important a tournament to be weakened by outdated qualifying methods. I would also advocate the re-introduction of the sudden death quarter and semi-finals. The mini-league system in the second stage has failed in Germany."

Learning

"Have we got anything to learn from the last tournament?"

"Of course. In football, one never stops learning. But we have sung the praises of the good teams in the Finals long enough. Let's look at ourselves, build-up our own confidence. I am convinced that in the next four years, we can develop a really outstanding, efficient team for Argentina."

"Aren't the England players too heavily involved in domestic football for a telling challenge in the World Cup?

"To play between 50-55 hard games per season is a strenuous schedule. But league football is the bread and butter of our game. It is easy to say that we ought to play fewer matches, but how do you achieve that? Still, I am more than hopeful that with the co-operation of the League Management Committee and the club managers, we shall have enough elbow room for the national team to prepare properly for the really important fixtures".

"What part do the Under-23 matches play in your planning?"

England's team manager with his assistant, Les Cocker, who was with him at Leeds.

"A vital one. As I said before these, and the ones who have appeared a few times for the senior side, are the players who will provide the bulk of my World Cup squad. Not only the U-23 team, but even the UEFA Youth team must also be coached and developed on the same lines as the full national side. I intend to take a great deal of interest in the work of the coaches on youth level—the future is just as important as the present."

"Are you satisfied with the present arrangements, which guarantee only appearance money for the internationals —irrespective of the result?"

"Not completely. These players are professionals. I wouldn't like to commit myself, but there ought to be a different system of rewarding them".

"Anything else you would like to say to our readers, Mr. Revie?"

"I am looking forward to the job enormously. It excites me. I will do my utmost to obtain the fullest possible co-operation of everyone involved in football".

Thank you, Don. I have thoroughly enjoyed our chat. Your forthright views have greatly impressed me, and I only hope that the club managements have got the message—a successful national team is good for the game!

Well, the Revie-era of English football has begun. All I can do is to wish him the very best of luck. Sincerely. Without reservations!

World Copyright,
Leslie Vernon.

SUMMERS GET STILL SHORTER

European Championship preview by ERIC BATTY

THE summers get shorter and with all the minor competitions like the Toto Cup and Alpine Cup on the continent, the Texaco Cup in Britain, there is barely a break at all between one season and the next. Of course, being World Cup year this was a shorter summer than usual and for me the break was less than four weeks. On July 7 I was at the World Cup Final in Munchen and three Saturdays later I was tempted to a Texaco Cup game. The off season is over once more.

By the time this article is printed the new European championship will be under way and because of the Finns climatic problems the poor Poles will already have visited Helsinki to meet Finland in the 1976 European championship on September 1. Other games will have been played in this competition, too, but only Poland were involved in the World Cup.

For the rest there was the opportunity to take a break . . . if they took advantage of it. However, the wisdom of playing football for eleven months of the year with all the strain it places on the players who are given little or no time to recover from injuries is a topic all its own.

Position

Let me say only that in my view the time has long passed where many clubs should reconsider their position and decide to participate only in the most lucrative competitions. Irrelevancies like Texaco, Anglo-Italian, etc., should be scrapped because we have already reached the ridiculous situation where many men are having to play close on 100 games a year.

Little wonder that the attitude of many players appears to be . . . "make as much as you can, while you can". They may not be able to do it for very long at that pace.

Poland should, of course, beat Finland who, in turn should benefit from a good crowd at their home game but that fixture is only the first game. Let us look at the competition group by group. We shall see that the organisers have once more made a monstrous hoob — placing Holland (2nd) and Poland (3rd) in the World Cup, in the same group as Italy who are still potentially strong and will be eager to redeem themselves after another World Cup failure.

Group 1. ENGLAND, Czechoslovakia, Portugal, Cyprus.

This looks like a doddle for England, whose new manager Don Revie will clearly be out to make a good impression. Cyprus and Portugal could both go the way of Austria whom England thumped 7-0 at Wembley last season . . . but don't let us have any cries of "England back on top of the World" if they run up a big score against Portugal in London.

Sixties

The Portuguese have slowly slid from their peak of the early sixties when their national team was, in fact, the Benfica squad built by the under-rated Bela Guttmann. Since then, as all who saw Portugal against Northern Ireland at Coventry last season will readily testify, are now a very poor lot indeed. England's stiffest test will be against the Czechs who held England to a 1-1 draw little more than a year ago in Prague. It was only a very late equaliser that prevented the Czechs from gaining a morale boosting victory.

The Czechs, however, have very real problems and no one knows this better than their manager Vaclav Jezek. They have achieved some good results on paper quite recently—beating the Soviet Union 1-0 and drawing 0-0 with Brazil (both games away). Jezek has at his disposal a lot of useful players but few that are outstanding and automatic choices.

England on the other hand suffer from an abundance of very good club players who seem unable to make the transition from club football to the very highest levels of the game. But for the moment the qualifying competition offers only token resistance and the biggest threat might well be the dust covered pitches in Cyprus.

Group 2. HUNGARY, Austria, Wales, Luxembourg.

Wales are re-building, Austria re-organising their club football and Luxembourg's role is limited to catching the unwary who might be persuaded to drop a vital point when they play in the Duchy.

This leaves Hungary who are lor overdue for a revival. Having learne in the World Cup that it is n enough to avoid defeat, it is to b hoped they adopt a more adventuro policy.

They have always had the playe with skill, their difficulty has been i getting the players to apply themselve There is hope from recent results tha the Hungarians are on the mend an clearly, if they fail to qualify fro this group, they will have no one t blame but themselves.

Group 3. YUGOSLAVIA, Swede Northern Ireland, Norway.

This is one of the more difficu groups to forecast, not least becaus there are so many imponderables. Wi Sweden be able to get all their player together again as they did for th World Cup.

Perhaps just as important, will the be able to re-kindle the same hig degree of enthusiam? Yugoslavia loo strong enough to qualify but once agai we still do not know yet the full exter of their inherent problem—the playe drain to professional clubs in Wester Europe. Norway too have improved o their recent results under the guidanc of George Curtis, pushing both Hollan (in Oslo) and East Germany before th World Cup proper.

Balance

Northern Ireland, too, present pro lems for they cannot always get the best players released and at their be can worry the likes of England an Scotland. On balance I take Yugoslav largely because they still have the bu of Hajduk Split to drawn on.

Group 4. SCOTLAND, Spai Romania, Denmark.

Romania have gone off the boil sin they reached the last stages of the 197 World Cup but clearly they could pr sent problems should they produce tw or three outstanding players and if mo like Radu Nunweiler recover their be form.

Predicting their performance is dif cult but Denmark should play a ro similar to that of Luxembourg, being spider web for the unwary who trav to Copenhagen in the wrong frame o mind.

The issue comes down to a choi

England captain Emlyn Hughes . . . looking forward to the European Championship.

between Scotland and Spain and both have important lessons to digest. Spanish team manager Ladislav Kubala should it is hoped have realised that his strong-arm side of 1973-74 is inferior to the team that could be created by incorporating gifted players like Resach and Marcial.

If he makes the right decision and hits a good blend then Spain could cause problems but assuming the Scots can field their strongest side I expect them to qualify. As was demonstrated in the British championship last spring they have temporarily stolen England's title as World Champions of Fight-ball, but they still appear to lack the necessary deep belief in ability rather than power.

This has been highlighted for me by the omission of a gifted player like Martin Buchan — and, of course, the Scots should now be wiser after their decisive World Cup game against Zaire when they failed to do what was so obviously required and get goals. They could well struggle away from home against Romania and Spain but I take Scotland to go through.

Group 5. POLAND, Holland, Italy, Finland.

Holland will be the favourites in this group for many people but in my view the Dutch game has the skids underneath it. More and more foreign players are being imported and there is little sign that the next generation of players can produce anyone to equal the likes of Johan Cruyff, Gerry Muhren and Wim Van Hanagem.

Again, I doubt if Georg Knobel who lost his Ajax job because he publicly criticised his players for being more interested in women and whiskey than they were in football, can produce the same kind of magic that Rinus Michels seems to carry in his bag.

Enigma

Italy, as always are an enigma—a lot of good players producing a lot of rubbish, that at best can only be described as "difficult to beat". They will come again of course, ruthless defenders, *catenaccio* (which they will not reject whatever they claim for the moment) and one or two top-drawer strikers will once more put them close to the top. But not necessarily this season.

Poland should have acquired a new confidence after their World Cup showing, and with a depth of talent no one but manager Kazimierz Gorski believed in they should head this group. Only Deyna, Lato and Gadocha are irreplaceable and though they might well struggle away to Italy and Holland it is to be hoped that they succeed again . . . for the well being of the game as a whole.

Group 6. SOVIET UNION, Turkey, Switzerland, Eire.

The Republic of Ireland suffers more than most in not being able to get the co-operation of the clubs that employ their best players while the Swiss are still only semi-professional and have too many imported players to stand up on their own.

Turkey are much improved, capable of holding almost anyone at home and even though the Russians have real problems and an apparent inability to find goalscorers I still take them to qualify. This is an evenly balanced group however with the Turks and Swiss capable of winning all their home games.

Group 7. BELGIUM, East Germany, France, Iceland.

Even in Reykjavik, Iceland cannot expect to beat any of their rivals and the French importing foreign players as busily as bees make honey they also have a foreign team manager. Until the French and their FA accept the fact that they have to find their own way out of their present crisis that has lasted already for far too long I do not expect them to achieve anything.

This leaves East Germany or the DDR and Belgium. The DDR a year ago looked a likely squad but they have problems in attack that were brought sharply into focus during the World Cup. Peter Ducke and Eberhard Vogel cannot last much longer and it looks as if Hans-Jurgen Kreische may need another operation on his knee. No doubt they will come again—they take their football far too seriously for anyone to write them off but they are going through a critical phase of readjustment and will soon have to rebuild up front.

This leaves Belgium in a strong position though they too have problems in attack where Leon Semmeling and Paul Van Himst must be replaced. Manager Raymond Goethals must also re-think his policy with regard to hitting the right balance between defence and attack. Having gone out of the World Cup to Holland despite not having a single goal scored against them in the qualifying round and seeing Holland reach the final, Goethals' friends might agree he was unlucky.

But he seems to be one of the cautious breed ready to settle for "hard luck" and perhaps like the Scots and the Hungarians, Belgium can learn from their World Cup failures.

Group 8. WEST GERMANY, Bulgaria, Greece, Malta.

The West German's task appears to be as easy as that facing England. Bulgaria cannot score goals; the Greeks are totally unreliable and little Malta is only a trap for the unwary. While I will not join in any applause for the World Cup holders, they should certainly get beyond the qualifying round once more. I will go further. I cannot see West Germany or England failing.

China must get recognition soon

From ROBIN PARKE in Hong Kong

EASILY the most significant development in soccer in Asia in the last decade was the decision by FIFA in Munich to permit member clubs to play against China and to allow that nation to participate in this month's Asian Games in Teheran.

To those deeply committed to the advancement of the sport in Asia the fresh moves on China were roundly welcomed and we must reasonably expect that she will soon be welcomed back into FIFA and so make that body truly representative of world soccer.

China holds a certain mystique or charisma not only in sport but also to the world at large. This is not surprising as the Bamboo Curtain has been an extremely effective barrier for almost three decades. The curtain has now been pierced slightly but always at China's wish and this is something that FIFA must bear in mind.

It has been decided that a special FIFA delegation, led by the new president, Mr. Joao Havelange, will go to Peking late this year or early next to discuss with leading Chinese officials the re-entry of China into the world body. The thorny topic of Taiwan (or Formosa) will obviously be discussed and it has been said that the FIFA men will attempt to persuade the Peking officials to drop their frequently stated standpoint that Taiwan must go before China rejoins.

Officials

I can immediately say that there is not the slightest possibility of China doing so and she has considerable right on her side and not necessarily politically.

My personal view and that of many leading soccer officials in the Far East is that Taiwan have abrogated any real right to membership of the world body by their complete indifference to the sport — save for possible political gain.

Absolutely no attempt was made on the island republic for many, many years to further soccer. Very belatedly a minor attempt has been made to introduce it at youth level but it has achieved little. Taiwan is, of course, American oriented and the sporting life of the country is dominated by US-style sports.

By far the worst facet of the country's approach to soccer was the quite open pirating of Hong Kong Chinese players to take part in major Asian tournaments. This went on for years under the most dubious of reasons and with the tacit approval — again for years — of departed FIFA president, Sir Stanley Rous.

Taiwan claimed that all Hong Kong Chinese players had a right to represent the "motherland" though none was born in Taiwan and many never set foot on the island until after selection. Hong Kong-born players were also chosen for Taiwan although, of course, this British Colony is a long-time member of FIFA.

Senior Taiwan officials were, in fact, residents of Hong Kong and there was, literally, absolutely no attempt made to advance the game on the island. This sorry pirating of players can to an end several seasons ago and it was not before time.

On the other hand soccer is the major team sport on the mainland and there are very definite indications that the Chinese will make a distinct impact when they emerge, firstly for the Asian Games.

Prominent

Over the past two years two separate teams made up of very prominent Hong Kong players have made clandestine trips to Peking where "training sessions" were held against teams from various provinces in China.

These sessions were, in reality, full scale matches played before crowds of 100,000 in Peking and Shanghai where the sport is at its very strongest. In Kwangtung Province, the closest to Hong Kong, a well-drilled team from Canton beat a fairly formidable professional team from the Colony — again in a "friendly session".

Officials and players who went on these tours all came back impressed by Chinese players and the approach to the game in China. Their long hibernation has meant that, in tactical matters, the Chinese are behind the times but in skill and overall ability they easily match the best in Asia and, it is whispered, they will be good enough to beat minor European teams. It is worth noting that they recently beat North Korea convincingly and soccer fans will readily remember the prowess of that particular nation in 1966.

It is to be hoped that China w re-admitted to FIFA at the e possible moment and that she w able to meet the deadline for entr the 1978 World Cup. Her pr would give much greater meani the Asian Zone play-offs for a pla or will it be two? — in Argentina

On the question of places in World Cup the Asian Football federation, controlling body of the in the region, were none too h about Australia's position as repres tives of this part of the world.

Situation

They contend that Australia do belong to the region and that a Asian team should have gone to many. Representations have al been made to Mr. Havelange o matter and it is learnt, the Bra showed appreciation of the situa

However, with the outcry durin World Cup about the weakne several of the qualifiers plus the r ings around Europe concerning American dominance in FIFA, it i far too early to say what will ha in the next couple of years rega Asia and the 1978 tournament.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong is b itself for the start of another dom season and there is every indicatio the small but very progressive C could have the world's largest national league.

Collection

Soccer in Hong Kong has been professional for over three years lining up with clubs next season be pros from Scotland, England, A tina, Spain, Brazil, Portuguese Mo bique, South Africa, Malaysia Australia. Quite a collection.

Leading the strong Scottish conti dotted around four major clubs wi former international star Willie He son, who signed a two-year contract last season with HK Rangers. Pla with him is a former Ibrox colle Alex Willoughby also capped for land at Under-23 level.

New Liverpool manager Bob Paisley receives the good wishes of club Chairman John Smith (centre) and retiring boss Bill Shankly.

PAISLEY NEW ANFIELD BOSS

ROBERT Paisley, the apprentice, has rolled up his sleeves. And he is now busily motivating the boys who will spell out success or failure at the end of his first year of soccer managership—the managership, if you please, of no less a club than Liverpool.

That may not be a worrying prospect for young men newly elevated while still in their thirties. Or forties. But it's an entirely different matter for anyone looking back from the half century mark.

That's why Bob, the backroom busy bee for ages and a day, is weighing-up everything with extra care. For he has been handed the problems of a top class outfit for the first time after having reached *The Fifties*!

The emphasis lies in the fact that it's over 35 years ago since this former wing-half assisted Bishop Auckland to carry off the Amateur Cup. And if you thrive on data, one has to go back almost quarter of a century to the time when he hit one of the two goals which knocked Everton out of the FA Cup semi-final at Manchester City's headquarters at Maine Road.

Since conversion to professionalism and the move from a North-East home to Merseyside, however, Paisley has absorbed a tremendous wealth of experience at almost all levels of the game, and, incidentally, tasted the glories and known the heartbreaks.

He was fairly raw on going to Anfield in the year war broke out, and at a time when the Walton Breck road organisation was unhappily wallowing in the Second Division while their Everton neighbours across the park were striding around the place in championship colours.

In his early years at this club which was founded in 1892 by none other than former League president Honest John McKenna—at whose funeral some dishonest Johnny stole my umbrella!—playing colleagues included such as Albert Stubbins, Billy Liddell, Ray Lambert, Phil Taylor, Ray Minshull, Jack Balmer and so on.

Paisley very soon became one of their best performers, and was a regular member of that grand squad which won Liverpool its fifth League title in 1947, at the expense of strongly-challenging Manchester United and Wolves.

A leg strain proved a curse, and pulled him out of the line-up shortly before they went down to Arsenal, in the 1950 Wembley, and afterwards, though fighting back well, he was unable to regain that lost spot.

First step among the backroom folk ended with a sponge, a brief for "The Stiffs", and coaching sessions with the youth teams. That was followed some years later by appointment as league team trainer, and, ultimately, First Lieutenant to The Boss.

When Bill Shankly drove over the Pennines from Yorkshire to organise his great Merseyside Mission, nearly fifteen years ago, Paisley was always on hand whenever any information was required, though only rarely moving out of the dressing room orbit and into the limelight.

But a close bond of friendship and mutual respect was born, and has flourished between these two men throughout all the intervening years, and was hallmarked when the reigning chief recommended Bob as his successor.

It happened this way. The chairman, having just been told that his manager intended calling it a day, wondered about a likely successor. Without loss of time, Bill said to him: "I'd be very careful what you do about bringing in someone from outside, because there's a very competent staff here, and if some fancy dandy came in it might break up the plan that's successful, and the men who run it successfully."

How does the new supremo of this high-powered athletic set-up feel about it. He says: "I would be failing the boss if, after all this time together, I could not plunge into this new task with confidence, and though I may never be able to equal the wonderful relationship he's always enjoyed with the crowd, I'll be his equal in loyalty and dedication, and every bit as hungry for trophies, and thirsty for success."

Paisley will always be spurred on by Shankly's remarkable record of three League titles, two FA Cup triumphs, and ten successive briefs for Europe. I'm certainly wishing him the best, if only on behalf of my butcher friend in the High Street, who regularly makes 75-mile round trips for home games, and never fails to pop out of the shop to whisper: "We're the greatest."

EUROPEAN OPEN THIS

by

ARTHUR ROTMIL

RARELY, if ever, has the premier club competition in Europe, the Champions Cup, looked quite so open as this term. After years of domination by Spanish, Portuguese and Italian clubs, the balance of power appeared recently to have shifted to Holland, whose crack team Ajax Amsterdam won the trophy three times in a row. But last season for the first time a German side in the shape of Bayern Munich clinched the coveted prize. Yet, the Bavarians, despite boasting six men who helped their country to win both the European Championship (1972) and recently the World Cup, have shown themselves to be vulnerable in the European tournaments.

How the once powerful clubs have declined is evident by the fact that such former giants as Real Madrid, Benfica Lisbon, AC Milan, Inter-Milan, Manchester United and Ajax Amsterdam—all previous winners of the European Cup—are not taking part in the current tournament! Admittedly, Real and Benfica have made it to the Cup Winners Cup, albeit a less prestigious contest than that for the champion clubs.

By a strange coincidence, next to the holders Bayern, there are also last season's winners of the Cup Winners tourney, FC Magdeburg, as, champions of East Germany, and the UEFA-Cup holders Feyenoord Rotterdam, who have taken the title in Holland, both now appearing in the Champions Cup! These teams, together with the Spanish champions Barcelona, who have been considerably strengthened by the acquisition of the Dutch World Cup stars Johan Cruyff and Johan Neeskens, have appreciably increased the circle of candidates for Europe's crown this term.

Punished

Sadly, Italy, once the home of Europe's leading contenders will not be represented at all. Lazio Rome, who were punished rather harshly by the European Union for the excesses of their fans during last year's UEFA-Cup tie against Ipswich, have been banned from all international competitions for a year.

As in previous seasons the UEFA organising committee have seeded a number of entrants to prevent the "big guns" confronting each other too early. The officials took the following achievements into account:

1. Clubs who during the past five years have reached at least the semi-finals of the two major competitions and those who in the past three years have at least reached the semi-finals of the UEFA-Cup.

2. Teams from countries whose national sides had qualified for the last four of the European Championship (West Germany, Russia, Belgium and Hungary).

3. Clubs from countries whose national teams have entered the last four in the World Cup (West Germany, Holland and Poland).

Thus, the seeded teams emerged as follows: Feyenoord, Leeds, Celtic, Bayern, Ujpest-Dozsa, Hajduk, Magdeburg, Sporting Lisbon, Ruch Chorzow, Anderlecht and Ararat Erevan. But one of the big favourites, Barcelona, were thus excluded from the elite! Still, the Spanish champions should have few problems with their relatively inexperienced opponents VOeST Linz of Austria. The draw for the Champions Cup contest was incidentally performed by FIFA's new president, the Brazilian Joao Havelange, who was on a visit to Zurich and an honorary guest of the European Union.

Holders

In accordance with UEFA's decision, both the holders Bayern Munich and the winners of the Cup Winners trophy FC Magdeburg received a bye in the first round. And so nearly all the leading teams have been kept apart at the start and here is the run down on those clubs who must be rated good enough to win the European Cup:

Bayern Munich.—The holders can boast of six men who in the past two years have sealed every peak in football: World champions, European champions, winners of the European Cup, national champions and Cup winners. These titles were achieved by Beckenbauer, Maier, Schwarzenbeck, Breitner, Hoeness and Muller. Add to this assembly Jupp Kapellmann, who was in West Germany's World Cup squad of 22 as well, plus the Swedish World Cup star Conny Torstensson, together with Bayern's most recent signing Klaus Wunder, who cost a fortune by German standards (£116,000), and it all spells out a powerful line-up designed to keep the trophy in Munich.

Yet, question marks still remain against the mental attitude of these stars, who may have to be motivated once again. Already Muller and Breitner have threatened to quit the national team for purely domestic reasons. Manager Robert Schwan and coach Udo Lattek are hoping that all their charges will be fighting fit and still full of determination to hold on to their titles, for which the tion in the coming season will be perhaps fiercer than ever.

CF Barcelona.—Holland's World manager Rinus Michels will rely c famous compatriots the two Johans, and Neeskens. But the Spanish crack turn out other highly accomplished formers. The midfielders Asensi Marcial, together with flying winger R represent international class. In de veteran stopper Gallego brings expe and organisation.

It is a long time since a Spanish tea won the premier prize; Real Madrid last in 1966. It can therefore be ass that Barcelona, who in the sixties also among Europe's top sides, w the "hungry" fighters reaching ou glory. The manner in which they ran with the League championship augur for the ambitious Catalans.

SC Feyenoord Rotterdam.—The have won this trophy in 1970 and the umphed last season in the UEFA-Cup the world series Holland's team, the run up of the competition, included se Feyenoord men, among them def Rijsbergen and midfielders Jansen and Haregem. But De Jong and Israel also used as substitutes.

In addition, the Dutch champions two fine wingers in Ressel and Krister the Yugoslav central defender Ra and a first class goalkeeper in Eddy Tr Manager Wiel Coerver has done an lent job in an unobtrusive way an could take the compact and skilled R dam outfit all the way to the Feyenoord will not lack incentive, for have been in the shadows of their national rivals Ajax for too long rece

Consistent

Leeds United.—The English cham have proved themselves the most cons team in this country over the past ten But the European Cup, which they made their number one target, has eluded the Yorkshire club. Whethe recent managerial change — the v Brian Clough for the moderate Don — will have any effect on their formances, remains to be seen.

Leeds are among the most experi sides in Europe and little wonder eight of their men have already been the club when it gained promotion, in 1964! Half the squad are Scottish nationals like Harvey, Bremner, Lo Jordan and McQueen, to name jus members of the World Cup party, Reaney, Cooper, Hunter, Madeley, Clarke have all played for England, Y for Wales and Giles for the Republ Ireland. Leeds have so often faltered last hurdle, that this blemish on temperament could foil them again

NCUP IS SSEASON

the other hand, they will try as never before, since several of their key men are either past 30, or thereabouts, and it must be their last chance to win Europe's premier prize.

Celtic Glasgow.—The Scottish aces have won the championship for the ninth time in a row, thus equalling the European record jointly held by MTK Budapest, who did it between 1917 and 1925, and by C.D.N.A. (now called CSKA) of Sofia, who won nine titles in succession from 1954 till 1962. Celtic, who were European Cup winners in 1967, have a fine team, but they too have on occasions fallen to less fancied opponents.

With internationals like McGrain, Connelly, Dalglish and Johnstone, with the vastly experienced, though visibly ageing Billy McNeill, Celtic boast plenty of skill, but they might miss World Cup star David Hay, who was recently transferred to Chelsea. Manager Jock Stein knows that his team must win a European trophy soon, to stimulate interest among the fans, who must be getting bored with repetitive domestic successes. The Celts have been getting the goals in the Scottish League, but they found scoring infinitely harder on the European circuit.

Of the outsiders the best chances appear to have the Yugoslavs from **Hajduk Split**, who ended the domination of Red Star Belgrade by winning the "double" last season. In Yugoslavia's World Cup squad of 40, there were no fewer than 10 men from And finally the newcomers to this tournament, the Russian cracks **Ararat Erevan**, who have also completed the coveted "double", last year, and will be particularly strong on their own ground at Erevan—the capital of Armenia—at the foot of Mount Ararat, where according to the Bible, Noah's Arc eventually came to rest! It would indeed by a bizarre setting in which to deposit the European Cup . . .

Three of the Barcelona imports . . . left to right: Johan Cruyff, Hugo Sotil and Johan Neeskens.

Boca Juniors forward Potente—originally in Argentina's World Cup squad but not chosen for the final 22—bea Huracan goalkeeper Leyes in his team's 3-1 win.

Things they say in Argentina by ERIC WEI

ARGENTINA CAN WIN CUP IN 1978

HURACAN'S half, Carlos Babington — once the subject of transfer talks between his club and Stoke City (his British descent would have made him eligible to play in England) — was sent to join the Argentine World Cup team at the last moment, when club mate Roque Avallay had to return home injured, and he turned out to be his country's most valuable player in Germany. When interviewed by WORLD SOCCER, the player often called "el inglés," said:

"My main impression of the World Cup tournament was that the Cup is not out of our reach. If we do things properly and work hard Argentina can win it."

Even when there are teams such as Holland and West Germany?

"I realize that as things are at the moment we can't beat such teams, but I do believe we can play the same way and with the same rhythm if we really set our mind to it."

Blame

What are the reasons which stop Argentina from reaching that level?

"There are many and I think this is not the time to blame anybody, because in a way we are all to blame. But we can't go on saying 'We gained valuable experience.' That's a much used and useless phrase. It was evident that the Europeans were not superior to us individually. Although European teams took the first three places these were the teams with the best individual players. Good soccer still brought the biggest applause — even in West Germany. Never mind the tactics, the hard play and the fighting spirit."

Does that mean that you are satisfied with Argentina's performance?

"No, not at all. I think we can play a lot better. I am satisfied with my personal achievement because I only joined the team a few days before the World Cup started and people said I was one of the best players in the team. The Argentine press continually clamoured for my inclusion in the team and I was happy to be able to repay their confidence in me in this way."

Which players impressed you most?

"Deyna, Overath, Beckenbauer, Oblak, Francisco Marinho."

And Cruyff?

"A great player, but the comparison with Pele does not fit. Cruyff is a star, but Pele is a super star."

What do you think of Argentina's chances in 1978?

"The important thing is not to copy anybody. We must follow examples and apply them to what we already know. We must not go on believing that we are the best. We must sh it. What Holland did we can do w better individual play. If it comes we can be world champions . . . if we are not I'll be happy if we p well."

Others did not spare criticism:

Defender Hugo Bargas (curre with Nantes, France): "I had a of hope, but a few days after join the team in Europe I realised thi were not being done properly an wanted to leave. There was organisation, no playing plan an am sure the pre-World Cup warm games were of no use at all. Altho we didn't do well, I continue maintain that individually there little difference between the Eu peans and us. If they beat us i because their leadership, coaching organisation is better."

Coaches

Defender Roberto Perfumo captain currently with Brazilian Cruzeiro): "Our problem contin to be the same — improvisation. this the coaches cannot be blam entirely, but also everything surrounds our soccer set-up at moment. Nevertheless, apart f West Germany and Holland, I sider that the Argentine team was the same level as the rest."

Marsh better equipped now

by Gregory Tesser

BACK in those balmy World Cup days of 1970 when the Brazilians, with their cavalier approach to the game, were making friends and influencing people; and Sir Alf Ramsey was being pilloried by the Press for his supposedly negative attitude; and everyone was pointing out how much better British football would be if it copied the Brazilian style, two players, Rodney Marsh all flamboyance and showmanship; and Peter Osgood all elegance and inconsistency, found themselves being heralded by many people as the English soccer Messiahs.

And when the World Cup was over, most of us sat like small children being told the facts of life, as we listened to that infamous word flair being bandied about both in the newspapers and on television, in the same way as inflation is spoken of today.

We were being told that we could play in the same mould as Brazil if Sir Alf Ramsey were to listen for a change to his critics and choose someone like Rodney Marsh for instance.

Basic

But why should he have chosen Marsh? For the Rodney of 1970 was a player of brittle temperament playing in an undistinguished side. "Ah Yes," said some journalists, "we know all that. But you wait. When he gets his game together again and Queen's Park Rangers start winning regularly for a change, Ramsey will pick him."

And although Marsh did have several truly memorable games during the 1970-71 season, it wasn't until the following term that he really started to click.

"For no basic reason, everything I'd tried so unsuccessfuly to do during the 1970-71 season suddenly began to pay off. And on top of all that the Rangers team, with Terry Venables playing exceptionally well, at last had a winning run.

"Frankly, at this time I often wondered how long my good fortune would last." As Marsh's performances for Queen's Park Rangers got better and better, so the national Press, almost in unison, stepped up the "Marsh for England" campaign. And when Sir Alf Ramsey eventually selected him for England squad duty at the age of 27, Rodney looked to be heading for a long England career. Yet, apart from a brilliantly executed goal against Wales, his performances were on the whole dismal.

"I flopped for England because I was never allowed to express myself properly. At Rangers Gordon Jago let me literally do my own thing, but for England I felt restricted, almost as if I were playing in a strait-jacket."

Nevertheless, for much of 1970-71 Marsh continued putting on the style for the Loftus Road faithful, until that is Rangers lost some of their sparkle. So in retrospect his transfer was basically as inevitable as Rangers' eventual promotion.

His arrival at Manchester City was greeted with purrs of ecstasy by their fans who looked upon him as their crowd-puller, in other words one-in-the-eye for their Manchester neighbours. However, Joe Mercer did make the point at the time that Marsh needed City more than they needed him. But basically most people agreed that by joining a club of Manchester City's stature, Marsh's game was almost bound to improve.

"You see," he told me, "I knew then that I had no time to wait for First Division football, time simply wasn't on my side. I'd always admired City's attacking approach, and I felt that by playing alongside guys like Francis Lee and Mike Summerbee, my game was bound to improve."

Back-seat

In many ways he did become a far superior all-round player, but at the same time the old Marsh magic slowly but surely took a back-seat. Of course he still performed tricks and created goals out of nothing, but he simply wasn't the same uninhibited player as he had been at Loftus Road. Maybe, technically his game became sounder, but that's about all.

I asked Rodney if the change from being a big fish in a small pool to that of being just a member of a fine side brimful of stars had in any way affected his confidence.

"When I signed on the dotted line for City I knew exactly what I was letting myself in for. And as to the question of my losing my confidence since my move to Manchester I must say that I personally have never lost faith in myself.

"What went wrong, if that's the right way to put it, was that so much, probably too much, was expected of me. At Rangers the Press had branded me as a superstar, a sort of one-man football team. At City I couldn't take things into my own hands on the same scale, which was quite right when you consider the quality of the players playing alongside me.

"Certainly being a big fish in a small pool is okay for people on an ego-trip, but it doesn't really help you to improve your game. After all, soccer is a team game, something which I was never properly aware of at Loftus Road. So, maybe I haven't been quite so spectacular at Maine Road, but alternatively I think I'm now far better equipped mentally to cope with my recent bad fortune."

●Continued on page 50

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REAL V FROM

by KEIR RADNEDGE

REAL MADRID and Barcelona had only met twice before in the Spanish Cup Final when they came face-to-face on Sunday, June 29 in a domestic interlude amid the World Cup.

The first meeting was the last final before the Civil War — June 21, 1936 — when Real won 2-1 in Valencia thanks to an inspired performance from the legendary Ricardo Zamora in what proved to be his last game. An added irony of course was that he had previously played for CFB.

It was not until July 10, 1968, in Chamartin, that the two clubs met again in the final. This time, in a match I well remember for some very dubious refereeing, Barcelona came away with a 1-0 win thanks to an own goal by Real's Fernando Zunzunegui.

Madrid was again the venue this time — but not Real's Chamartin. Instead it was Atletico's Estadio Vicente Calderon which was given the privilege, and the result was a crowd of 60,000 — about three-quarters capacity.

Much of the drama had been taken out of the occasion by the fact that foreigners (that is, proper foreigners, as against Spanish foreigners) are banned from the end-of-season Cup competition.

Full-time

So, even had Holland released Johan Cruyff and West Germany freed Gunter Netzer — absolutely unthinkable of course — they would not have been able to play, and Real were thus cheated of an early full-dress chance of avenging that 5-0 home defeat at the hands of CFB earlier in the season.

"Iron Rinus" Michels flew back from West Germany to sit on the CFB trainers' bench alongside his deputy, former international stopper Rodri, and Luis Molowny was in charge for Real.

This was the last game for El Mangas to hold the reins. Having taken over temporarily from Miguel Munoz in mid-season, he never wanted the Real manager's post full-time, and had been itching to get back among the junior and amateur teams.

Another "M" — Miljan Miljanic — takes over now, but Molowny was of course desperately keen to go out with a trophy to put a little lustre on a traumatic season. At least by this stage Real were already certain of a place in the Cup winners' Cup, with Barcelona the newly-crowned League champions.

Real had come this far by beating Betis, Granada and Las Palmas — scoring 22 goals, including two sevens and a five. They had conceded five goals in the sixties — the Spanish Cup is played on a home-and-away basis — with Miguel Angel stepping in competently for Mariano Garcia Remon, after the first-choice goal-keeper broke an arm in a late league match. Miguel Angel's Cup campaign even included a penalty save.

Barcelona, meanwhile, had overcome Malaga, Espanol and Atletico Madrid— the latter, i.e., not unexpectedly, dissolving into a Battle of the Cushions. Besides having to replace Cruyff and the Peruvian Hugo Sotil, they were without injured full back Torres, while Real, missing Netzer, Oscar Mas, Garcia Remon and the hapless Amancio — kicked out in Granada — also had a fitness doubt about 23-year-old Vicente del Bosque, one of their few revelations this year.

In the event del Bosque not only played, in midfield alongside the experienced Ramon Grosso and Manolo Velazquez, but looked the best player on the field. Pirri continued in his new role of sweeper, where he had succeeded Ignacio Zoco also as team captain.

The better side over the first half an hour were Barcelona. But, as Michels admitted afterwards: "We had two good chances in that period. We missed them. We made mistakes. And you all saw what happened."

Advantage

After only seven minutes Real went ahead. Valazquez sent Aguilar flying past de la Cruz, and Santillana took full advantage of the hesitations of Salvador Sadurni in the CFB goal.

Poor Sadurni had a sad game, and was to blame again when Real, went 2-0 up three minutes after half-time. Rubinan careered up the left, played Macanas free, and ran on for the return. Macanas decided to shoot. Sadurni failed to hold the ball, and Rubinan was fortuitously in position to score.

Three minutes later Aguilar blasted a shot through Sadurni's hands, and then came a hiatus until the 82nd minute before goal No. 4 came — Pirri chasing in a sliced cross from Grosso at the far post.

This scoreline was thus a record for the Spanish Cup since it was first reconstituted on a national basis as the Copa del Generalisimo (Franco) in 1940.

Cruising to victory, Real a themselves the luxury of pulli Grosso and Jose Luis and sendi Tourino and Zoco.

Zoco had made it clear a lon ago that this was his last season the aficionados rose generously man playing his last few minute competitive match for Madrid.

Pirri even handed over the ca armband and so it was Zoco who up for the Cup at the final whistl

Teams:

Real Madrid: Miguel Angel; Luis, Rubinan; Pirri, Benito, G Aguilar, del Bosque, Santillana, quez, Macanas. Subs.: Tourin Zoco (for Grosso and Jose Luis 84 mins).

Barcelona: Sadurni; Rife, G Juan Carlos, de la Cruz; Costas, cial, Asensi; Juanito, Clares, R Sub: Marti Filosia (for Asen mins.).

The referee was Sanchez Rios, the FA had made strenuous eff borrow Pablo Sanchez Ibanez fr World Cup. The Organising Com in Frankfurt approved the idea, b final veto came from the FIFA Re Commission.

Retired

So Molowny went back to hi job happy; Zoco retired happy; a rest of the Madrid players — mo went off on holiday happy (30 da the married men, 20 days fo bachelors).

One man not so content was Mas, the 5ft 6in winger who ha Real £100,000 from River Plat previous summer.

The future of Netzer has bee cussed ad nauseum, overshadowin plight of Pinino, whom I first s England in the 1966 World Cup.

Mas — his full name is Oscar Magallan — was born in San Mar the fringe of Buenos Aires, on O 29, 1946. He got the nickname because of his small build, but deceptively wiry and tough. River had been his only club in Arge for it was they who almost li signed him off the streets when h only 12!

At 14 he was signing his first p sional forms, and at 16 he was River first team — a staggering ris

WN THE CUP
EARCELONA

Real Madrid players training prior to the start of the new season under coach Miljan Miljanic (in tracksuit top). Notice the attendance!

one which often overwhelms even the most precocious junior.

Not Mas. In the next 11 years he was River's top league scorer eight times, and three seasons saw him the nation's No. 1 goal-getter — goals which brought him 35 international caps, including one against England in 1966, a game which could have brought Mas instant world-wide fame, had he taken the chance offered in the second half when the score was still 0-0.

The ball had been turned on to him by Luis Artime, his boyfriend hero, but the winger sliced his shot wide as he cut in from the left with the England cover at sixes and sevens.

Earlier in the finals, Argentina played Spain, winning 2-1, and that was Mas's first contact with Spanish soccer, the link being made permanent only when he signed for Real last summer.

River Plate had been reluctant to let him go — they had already turned down offers from Espanol, Malaga and Reims — but £100,000 is big money to any Argentinian club now, and Real saw in Mas the natural successor to Francisco Gento on the left touchline.

Mas did not start too badly, scoring a number of goals in his early games, while controversy raged about the form of the other big-money buy, Netzer. But trouble was not far off.

Decisions

Mas was a little indiscreet in some criticisms of Munoz, and this earned a rebuke from the Real directors. Then, when Munoz quit, one of Molowny's first decisions was to axe the Argentinian.

Later Mas admitted: "I just had not adapted to Spanish soccer. I played this season at about 50 per cent of my powers. It will be different next term."

Whether there will be a next term for Mas is still in doubt. Real's failure to sign anyone immediately after the World Cup made it appear that his position was safe under the two-foreigners-per-team rules.

As Mas pointed out: "I have a three-year contract, of which I have completed just one year. And I have a note to say that I am in the **plantilla** still." True, Molowny did reinstate Mas late in the season and he can look back on 11 goals in 26 games. But he has a very gifted young rival now in Macanas.

Also, Real have signed Roberto Martinez, the Argentinian-born Spanish international forward from Espanol who has generally shown a preference for the left-hand side of the field.

Real have lent players to France before now — another Argentinian-born winger, Miguelito Perez, was the last example — and Mas cannot really be confident yet about his future in Madrid, even if it seems unlikely that Miljanic will prejudge the man.

Hardly the best way to start a new season — even playing for the Spanish Cup holders.

EUROPEAN C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	%	Honours
AUSTRIA	18	7	4	7	34	30	50.0	
ALBANIA	12	2	2	8	6	25	25.0	
BELGIUM	18	9	3	6	32	20	58.3	3rd 1972
BULGARIA	21	11	4	6	32	23	61.9	
CYPRUS	12	1	0	11	5	51	8.3	
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	22	12	4	6	39	19	63.6	3rd 1960
DENMARK	23	6	4	13	31	48	34.7	4th 1964
EIRE	20	5	4	11	19	41	35.0	
ENGLAND	20	12	4	4	39	19	70.0	3rd 1968
FINLAND	12	0	3	9	6	28	12.5	
FRANCE	26	12	5	9	58	43	55.7	4th 1960
EAST GERMANY	18	7	4	7	30	28	50.0	
WEST GERMANY	14	9	4	1	27	6	78.5	Winners 1972
GREECE	14	3	4	7	13	25	35.7	
HOLLAND	16	6	4	6	35	22	50.0	
HUNGARY	29	15	6	8	54	35	62.0	3rd 1964; 4th 1972

* Does not include loss of toss after 0-0 draw with Italy.
† Does not include winning of toss after 0-0 draw with USSR.
Spain also withdrew to give USSR a walk-over as did Greece to give Albania a walk-over.

CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	%	Honours
NORTHERN IRELAND	16	5	4	7	17	16	43.7	
ITALY	¶22	13	6	3	45	16	72.2	Winners 1968
ICELAND	2	0	1	1	3	5	25.0	
LUXEMBOURG	17	1	5	11	10	41	20.6	
MALTA	8	0	1	7	4	25	6.2	
NORWAY	16	1	3	12	17	41	15.6	
POLAND	16	5	3	8	25	26	40.6	
PORTUGAL	19	9	3	7	28	25	55.2	
ROMANIA	21	9	3	9	39	35	50.0	
SCOTLAND	12	6	2	4	14	15	58.2	
SPAIN	24	14	5	5	48	17	68.7	Winners 1964
SWEDEN	18	6	6	6	20	24	50.0	
SWITZERLAND	14	6	3	5	31	22	53.5	
TURKEY	16	4	3	9	10	31	34.3	
USSR	*29	19	5	5	56	24	74.1	Winners 1960; Runners-up 1964 1972; 4th 1968
WALES	14	3	4	7	13	22	35.7	
YUGOSLAVIA	27	13	8	6	44	28	62.9	Runners-up 1960, 1968

* Does not include loss of toss after 0-0 draw with Italy.
¶ Does not include winning of toss after 0-0 draw with USSR.
Spain also withdrew to give USSR a walk-over as did Greece to give Albania a walk-over.

ANTI-CLIMAX NOW EVIDENT

Andrew Dettre from Sydney

A HUGE anti-climax, a sort of post-coital tristesse has set in throughout Australian soccer. The noble exploits and creditable results of our team at the World Cup received tremendous Press coverage, mainly in Sydney, and rightly so: the almost universally forecast slaughter was avoided.

Of the three minnows in the field, only Australia managed to win a point and escape a hiding and the following ridicule. To lose 0-2 to East Germany is anything but a disgrace; after all, even the later world champions went down to them 0-1. And to get beaten by West Germany 3-0 is still a fair result when stood against the German win of 4-2 over Sweden—or the recent 5-0 drubbing handed out to the Hungarians whose absence from the tournament was so loudly lamented.

But that's neither here nor there. The hard, cold facts are that Australia was eliminated after the first round, that we failed to score a single goal (like Uruguay and Zaire) and that, all sentiments aside, we were at the receiving end in all three of our matches, relying on a well organised, almost heroic defence to avert catastrophe.

However, the current atmosphere of gloom centres around the classic question: Quo Vadis, Soccer Australiensis?

Upsurge

In the World Cup-generated euphoria many club officials and even some pressmen had naively believed that we were about to witness an unprecedented boom, an almost embarrassing upsurge in our match attendances and, preferably overnight, players of the calibre of Cruyff and Neeskens. All this, many felt, was our divine right, a rightly deserved pay-off for the team's relative successes and a long overdue reward for our angelic patience.

Alas, no poetic justice is likely to be delivered and whatever shortcomings Australian soccer had to endure before the Weltmeisterschaft have remained, perhaps compounded by the unfulfilled expectations.

In the weeks after the World Cup, attendances in Sydney dropped to the lowest level since 1957; at most matches you can now count the spectators in their hundreds, with the six First Division matches seldom reaching the aggregate figure of 10,000. Some clubs draw so appallingly that the few shivering spectators wouldn't even be enough to contravene the crowd-gathering bylaws of a dictatorship.

Some blame the TV saturation for this decline; during the World Cup Sydney viewers could, if they were prepared to sit up till 4 am, watch matches "live" from the Bundesrepublik. And as the ABC figures show, hundreds of thousands did just that, causing soaring electricity and gas consumption during winter dawns.

And now, precisely in this state of uncertainty and decline, some people want to turn away from the existing problems and create new, much bigger and juicier ones. They have renewed their clamor for the introduction of a "National League," in some form bringing under one roof the so-called leading clubs of Sydney, Melbourne, Newcastle and perhaps other capital cities.

Complex

They seem to say, without so many words, that while they cannot be trusted to run our present day, modest intra-city championships, they would be splendidly equipped to manage something infinitely more complex and expensive.

To make this proposition even more incredible, there is no detailed plan or forward estimate which could at least indicate how such a League would work, what the costs would be and how it would affect the existing city-leagues and their future.

While this haggle has been going on, one of Australia's World Cup heroes, Adrian Alston jetted out of the country to join Luton Town as a well paid professional. Alston's displays against the two Germanys earned him rave notices in the Hamburg and Berlin Press and resulted in lucrative offers from Eintracht Frankfurt and Hertha Berlin.

After some hesitation, Alston opted for a third choice, going "home" instead, a true prodigal son making good. A former Fleetwood apprentice, the tall Alston blossomed into a fast, elusive striker of undoubted class. However, in Luton he would have to show much more consistency than he did in the past to make the grade and hold down a berth.

One feels that he would have been wiser to settle for Frankfurt where his style could have been shaped easier to his new surrounds. But in either case, Alston is temporarily lost to Australian soccer, already rather poor in colourful characters and with him go the good luck wishes of his admirers.

On the coaching front, national team supremo Rale (Zvonimir) Rasic, a huge success with the West German and international Press, has accepted an offer from the Federation to continue in a caretaker capacity until 1976 whe he becomes full-time for the next elimination rounds. Now attached to Sydney's Pan Hellenic club, Rasic, both as coach of the national team and as an ambassador for Australian soccer has done more than enough to silence his critics.

However, he is certain to have continuing difficulties with the ASF when the crunch comes and he presents his plans for the team's preparations—always a shock to amateur-thinking officials.

And finally, something about Australia's hopes of joining Asia. The application to join the powerful and expanding Asian Confederation will be dealt with at the Tehran conference after this issue went to press. A two third majority is needed and Australia is only moderately optimistic about the open-mindedness of her neighbours, needed to admit a non-Asiatic country into this exclusive club.

Excursion

Whether Australia makes it or not, serious plans are afoot to send a vastly rejuvenated national team on an Asian tour later this year and the venues would include China and Burma, two dark spots on the Australian soccer map. The Federation is hopeful that in the best spirit of rapport Australia now has with China, the Federal Government will offer some financial help to make this costly yet diplomatically invaluable excursion possible.

Some of the World Cup stalwarts will be missing: John Warren and Attila Abonyi have already announced their retirement from international soccer while others, including Jack Reilly, John Watkiss, Ivo Rudic, Ray Richards, Jim Mackay and Jim Rooney may be bypassed for younger hopefuls.

Ray Baartz, karate-chopped out of the game earlier this year in Sydney by Uruguayan Cardaccio, has definitely retired, at 27, and is awaiting settlement of a hefty insurance claim. One can only wish that somehow the Uruguay Association could be made to pay at least part of this settlement, if for nothing else than to remind them of their turbulent visit to Australia which merely preceded their total eclipse at the World Cup.

Cup and league double for Slovan

IN his first season as manager of Slovan Bratislava, Joszef Venglos led the club to a double that was clinched only hours before the World Cup started in Germany. With the Czechs eliminated, their FA arranged a heavy international programme for the spring, partly to help old friends who had qualified and wanted match practice and partly to rebuild their team ready for the now imminent clash with England in the European Championship.

The result for Czech players was mid week games every week and the fact that the Czechs and Slovaks each stage their own Cup competitions added to the congestion.

In the Czech Cup, lowly Sparta rose far above their league form to win 2-1 away against Banik Ostrava at the semi final stage while Slavia accounted for Prague neighbours Bohemians 1-0. This brought together the old rivals Slavia and Sparta in the final. Over two legs, SK Slavia won, drawing 1-1 at home and winning 3-1 at Letna.

Periods

Slavia's overall performance in 73-74 was a great improvement on the previous season when they looked relegation possibles for long periods. But in spite of their new prominence they seem to have erred somewhere in the establishment of connections with the authorities.

Sparta and Bohemians both now play at modern, recently rebuilt grounds while Dukla Praha have been using the Bohemians ground while their own stadium is rebuilt. Slavia meanwhile, still have only one stand — a pre-war, wooden structure in which fans are (officially) barred from smoking because of the fire risk.

Meanwhile, in Slovakia, the old firm of Slovan Bratislava finally won the local cup, after several close shaves and a fiercely contested final against Spartak Trnava, the small town team that has sprung up to rival them in the last few years. In the final, Slovan drew 0-0 at Trnava, then 2-2 at home and finally collected the trophy after penalty kicks which they won 6-5.

Penalties were also required when Slavia and Slovan played off for the Czechoslovak Cup.

At the Eden ground in Prague, Slavia won 1-0, scored by Mutkovic but laid on by Frantisek Vesely, one of Slavia's veterans and a real hero this season. At Tehelne Pole in Bratislava, Jan Capkovic put Slovan ahead after 15 minutes to level the scores and that's how it stayed at the end of 90 minutes and throughout an extra half hour. Slovan then won 4-3 on penalties.

The Slovak Cup was instituted only in 1969-70 (when Slovan won it) and they have taken the trophy three times now with Spartak Trnava (1971) and VSS Kosice (1973) the only other winners.

Bad run

In the championship, after many breaks and a really bad run by Ostrava, who were favourites for a long spell before losing four matches in a row, the top places were not finally settled until the last day.

Before the final round, Slovan led Slavia by one point with Dukla and Ostrava another point away but as things turned out, Slovan would have won the title on goal average even before their last day home win 4-2 against Nitra who were sixth at the time. After 69 minutes, Slovan led 4-0 (Jan Svehlik and Ivan Pekarik scoring two each) before Nita got off the mark. Slavia, away to Zilina were never really in the game and trailing 2-0 early on when they needed a good win, finally lost 1-2.

Slovan, not surprisingly, pulled the biggest crowd — just short of 20,000 — while somewhat surprisingly, in Prague less than 2,000 paid to see Dukla beat Bohemians 1-0 with a goal from international centre forward Zdenek Nehoda.

Biggest

Ostrava were held to 1-1 away to Teplice to crown a disappointing performance and the only other game of note saw the biggest crowd of the round in Prague, 8,000 watching Sparta draw 0-0 at home to Spartak Trnava. Both clubs have fallen on hard times—Trnava scoring fewer goals than any other team in the division drew 13 of their 30 matches. Trnava's top scorers were Ladislav Kuna and Joszef Adamec who each got seven.

Both clubs finished in respectable positions (7th and 8th) . . . but very ominously only two points above Lokomotive Kosice, who were relegated!

Top men in the goalscoring department were Premysl Bicovsky, Teplice's midfield star and the VSS Kosice centre forward Ladislav Jozsa who each scored 17. Next most successful marksman was Slavia's Dusan Herda who got 15.

Overall the season showed a marked swing in favour of home sides presumably stemming from cautious tactics when playing away. At all events, even relegated Lokomotive Kosice were beaten only twice at home but very significantly, even the champions Slovan only managed to win 3 of their 15 away league games!

Collating the figures of the last five seasons, Spartak Trnava are still top dogs (only one home defeat in five years), despite their failure in 1973-74. Slovan occupy second place in the five-year review with VSS Kosice 3rd underlining the rise of the Slovak clubs vis a vis the Czechs.

BBC WORLD SERVICE WINNERS

MR. KRISSANA ITTISAMPAN from Bangkok, Thailand, won the BBC World Service "Saturday Special" World Cup competition. The first prize was a trip to England on a British Airways "Sportsline of the World" jet, with visits to various famous sporting events.

Runners-up were Mr Zahour Ahmed from Karachi, Pakistan, Mr. Raj Vaswani from Bombay, India; Mr. Brian Francis from St. Johns, Antigua, B.W.I. and Mr. J. M. Hewitt, from Kenya, East Africa. They all won transistor radios.

More than 30,000 people from 141 different countries entered the competition and 2,000 accurate forecasts of the score in the World Cup Final were received. The draw was made by Sir Stanley Rous, Mr. Jack Taylor, Mr. Austen Kark, Editor of BBC World Service and Miss Charlotte Winkle, British Airways Personality Girl of the Year.

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Bianchi is a big hit in France

PAULO Cesar the biggest disappointment of the World Cup, certainly for Brazil and possibly even among all the fancied players among the 16 finalists, is the new star of Olympique Marseille in the French First Division.

He received rave notices after his first game against Strasbourg in which he scored his team's only goal in a 1-1 draw after 60 minutes. Marseille lost their next game 1-0 to Lille, so Paulo Cesar is in the happy position of being the club's leading goal-scorer!

However, another South American is already stealing the headlines from him. He is Carlos Bianchi, the 25-year-old Argentinian centre forward of Reims who was leading goalscorer for the club and in the whole of France last season with 30. He has shot to the front of Europe's marksmen already scoring twice in his first match and getting all six in the next game against Paris St. Germain.

If he can keep up this type of scoring then he will take some stopping in the race for the title of Europe's ace goalscorer.

STANDARD Liege, the Belgium club, are negotiating for the signature of Mohamed Maaroufi, a Moroccan international midfield player who played in the 1970 World Cup competition in Mexico.

Maaroufi, who plays for FAR the Moroccan Army team, has been keen to join a Belgian club and tried to get both Charleroi and FC Liege interested in his services.

Standard might have to start the new season without the services of their goal-keeper Christian Piot who injured a foot in training.

JOHAN Cruyff, the Dutch captain in the World Cup, has said that he has taken the responsibility for Holland's failure to wrest the trophy.

Cruyff has already announced that he will not play in another World Cup competition. And now he says that he plans to retire completely at the age of 31 which will be in 1978 when the next world championship is due to be held in Argentina.

MILJAN Miljanic has been succeeded as Yugoslavian national team manager by . . . Anton Mladinic!

A former player with Hajduk Split and later trainer of their youth team where he discovered such stars of the present era as Buljan, Surjak, Jerkovic, Petrovic, Muzinic etc., Mladinic is virtually unknown.

Certainly he has a proved record for producing good young players but whether he can succeed in dealing with the needs of a national team is something which will have to be proved by subsequent events.

CSKA Sofia the Bulgarian Army club compensated for the loss of their championship title to Levski Spartak by beating these opponents in the Bulgarian Cup Final 2-1.

Now CSKA are hoping that this will give them the necessary impetus to recapture the crown they had previously held in the League. The Army club share with Scotland's Celtic the record for the highest number of consecutive League championships, nine.

But if Celtic are successful this year, then the Scots will go ahead and establish a new record which is unlikely to be beaten by anyone—unless Celtic themselves improve upon it.

LAS Palmas the Spanish First Division club are hoping to complete the transfer of Enrique Wolff the former captain of the Argentinian national team from River Plate.

Wolff a full-back who impressed in the World Cup had the captaincy transferred from him to Roberto Perfumo just before the competition as there was some doubt about his physical fitness.

Wolff was previously with Racing Club in Buenos Aires and if he moves to Las Palmas he will link up with his countryman, goalkeeper Carnevali.

PENAROL are due to play in several Spanish tournaments prior to their South American Cup commitments which see them in a semi-final group which embraces the Argentinian clubs Huracan and Independiente.

They are bring with them centre forward Fernando Morena who was the subject of a transfer enquiry from Real Madrid at the time of the World Cup. So far nothing further has transpired, but presumably if Morena impresses on the visit to Spain, Real will have the opportunity of taking a closer look at him.

Yugoslavian international Bajevic.

Penarol who are these days under the direction of Hugo Bagnulo the former national team manager who guided Uruguay to the World Cup finals and then gave up in the face of Roberto Porta, have several other internationals on their books including Walter Corbo (goal-keeper), Luis Garisto, Mario Gonzalez, Mario Zoryez (defence), Ramon Silva, Julio Cesar Gimenez (midfield) and of course Morena (centre forward).

THE Bundesliga Second Division has got off to a quiet start in West Germany with five figure attendances a rarity rather than the usual.

However for the 1860 Munich v Augsburg match a crowd of 50,000 turned up.

There is also an absence of the free-scoring which has existed in the top *Bundesliga* during the past few seasons. After two rounds of the Second Division which is split into North and South sections, the 39 matches had produced only 108 goals for an average of 2.7 which compares unfavourably with the Bundesliga last season which was Europe's best at 3.5.

DINO ZOFF (Italy) says

We reached our peak too soon and were on the decline in West Germany

Question: What does it feel like following Italy's dismal failure in Germany?

Answer: Frankly I feel shattered. Before we went, I regarded our chances of reaching the Final more highly than in 1970. In my opinion, in 1970 we never played up to our true potential and were certainly lucky to do so well.

In the months leading up to the Germany World Cup we improved in almost every match we played. And after our fine victories over Brazil and England (twice), I felt that this was going to be our year. Now that it's all over, all I want to do is to forget about it and start afresh.

Would you say that manager Ferruccio Valcareggi's loyalty to his players might have cost Italy the World title?

Ah, yes, but our manager wasn't the only World Cup boss to be criticised in this way. After West Germany had been beaten by their East German rivals, Mr. Helmut Schoen was also accused of showing too much loyalty to the more senior members of his squad.

And if my memory serves me right, Sir Alf Ramsey was criticised in this way in Mexico. From a personal point of view I don't think Mr. Valcareggi's selections were all at fault.

If anyone should be blamed for our failure to win the World Cup it should be our players, and certainly not the manager!

An unpleasant welcome awaited Mr. Valcareggi and the squad in Italy. Would you say that the reaction of the Italian supporters was justified?

Justified? Yes. But completely uncalled for. The trouble with football fans throughout the world is that on the whole they have short memories.

Prior to the Germany World Cup, when we were sweeping all before us, they wouldn't hear a word said against us. But now we're in the unenviable position of having to win the European Championship or else? Surely a true fan supports his side just as much in the bad days as in the good.

One critic wrote after Italy's defeat at the hands of Poland: "They reached their peak last year when they beat previous World Cup winners England and Brazil." In your opinion is there any truth in this journalist's assessment?

Optimism

The journalist who wrote those words really hit the nail on the head. After Mexico, we improved in tremendous leaps and bounds, and during this period of success after success the mood of the players who one of unbelievable optimism.

But looking back, I suppose our pre-World Cup victories did us more harm than good. You see, our football was at such a high level after our defeat of Brazil that we probably became too complacent.

Certainly there is no doubt in my mind that if the World Cup had been held in 1973 we would have won.

Apart from being beaten by Poland, what was your most depressing experience in the World Cup?

As you know, before the matches kicked-off in Germany I hadn't been beaten for two years. So our opening fixture against the unknowns of Haiti didn't fill me with apprehension.

Yet with only about half an hour to go were were one goal down, and I found the experience of picking the ball out of the net such a new thing for me that for several minutes I simply didn't accept it.

It has been said of you that you couldn't be relied upon in a crisis. What is your reaction to this criticism?

Well, whoever said that must in the minority. Your own international goalkeeper Ray Clemence seems to think otherwise. Before the World Cup got under way he said: "Consistency is the paramount quality in a goalkeeper above all other players. He must never have an off day. And who could have been more consistent that Zoff?"

I have always been an admirer of Clemence, and value his opinion extremely highly. Of course I've made mistakes, but who hasn't? If people judge me by my record then there is surely no justification in criticising my ability to cope with difficult situations.

Displays

After having seen the brilliant displays of "total football" given by both Holland and West Germany, do you see any future for the "Catenaccio" system?

To be honest, no. In my view the 1970s will be known for its emphasis on goals, and the so-called sophisticated defensive formations will soon be a thing of the past. Of course this doesn't mean that the "Catenaccio" system should be discarded like an old boot.

I think it should be modified and integrated with "total football". If this happens, and there is no reason why it shouldn't, then we're in for an era of flexible soccer based on strength in all departments and not just in one.

by Brian Marshall

Taylor says Britain must adopt World Cup systems

JACK TAYLOR, the master butcher from Wolverhampton, who enjoyed such a fine World Cup Final with praise from all quarters for his handling of the match, is convinced that British football can only advance if they adopt two of the systems which were operated in West Germany.

He feels that the introduction of the yellow and red card system would be beneficial to everyone connected with the game and that it would alleviate a great deal of the misunderstanding which often develops on and off the field by the misinterpretation of a referee's decision.

Taylor if also of the opinion that there is now a dire need to restrict the treatment received by players on the field of play.

The Wolverhampton official, who has now achieved his life-long ambition with his appointment in Munich, feels that frequent hold-ups spoil the game and it is to the benefit of everyone if the proceedings can flow uninterrupted.

Commenting upon these two very successful moves in the World Cup, Taylor, who was a little concerned with the way his appointment came about, said: "I have always supported the two card system. This leaves no one in any doubt of what is happening on the field.

"This system would also help the players. In the heat of the moment they often do not know what is happening but with the card system there would never be any problems. It could prevent a great deal of trouble.

Report

"It also helps the referee. All he need do is to take the player's number and then when he gets back to the dressing room all he needs to do is to check his team-sheet and make the necessary report.

"In this way the game flows along to the benefit of everyone concerned. A big difference in the approach to the game by the players would be quickly noticed. I feel the standard of the play would also improve and make the matches more interesting.

"On the question of treating injuries I think everyone must be sick and tired of seeing players writhing in agony on the ground one minute and then sprinting away immediately they have had some treatment from the trainer.

"I feel that sometimes this is only a method of coaching on the part of the teams. If we could stamp this out it would also be to the benefit of the game in general."

Taylor, who attended a charity function at Kingswinford only a few hours after he returned to his Wolverhampton home, was delighted with the way the World Cup ended with him refereeing the final. Unlike the winners or the beaten finalists he did not make any money out of the competition. In fact, there was no extra payment for the final. All he received was a gold medal which was presented to him at the official banquet after the final.

One other item he received was the coin that he used to toss up with before the start of the West Germany-Holland match. It was one of ten specially minted for Prince Bernard of Holland. He also received the reserve match ball autographed by the West German team.

Incidentally, the match ball was taken by a Dutch player but he was later persuaded to return it to the West Germans.

Commenting upon the final he said that it did not take a great deal of courage to award a penalty in the first minute against the West Germans. "It was a penalty," says Taylor, "and that is what I awarded. Franz Beckenbauer made a slight objection but the Germans had no objection because it was an obvious penalty."

Interval

There was, however, a little confusion about the booking of Johan Cruyff as the players were leaving the field at the interval. The Dutch captain was seen to exchange words with Taylor.

The Wolverhampton man said: "Cruyff was booked for dissent because he continued to argue about a foul he reckoned had been committed against him towards the end of the first half.

"There was some suggestion that he was expressing his views about the penalty which I awarded against Holland but this was not the case. I told him to stop arguing. He went away but then came back and continued to argue with me. I had no alternative but to book him for dissent. It did not matter what time it occurred. No referee would stand for such treatment."

Taylor, who once sent off George Best as they were going down the tunnel at half-time, admitted that when he awarded the Germans their penalty he did have some second thoughts.

He said: "I admit that there could have been a certain amount of gamesmanship about the incident but there was no doubt in my mind that the German had been tripped and a penalty was the correct award."

The Dutch certainly did not have any complaints. At the banquet they even admitted that they would not have been surprised if Taylor had given a second penalty against them later in the match.

Thrilled

The only sour note was that his friend Bobby Davidson of Scotland was originally informed that he would referee the final only to be told later that it had been a mistake and that Taylor would instead handle the big match.

Taylor said: "This should never have happened. But I was thrilled when he telephoned me from Scotland after the match to congratulate me. It completed my day."

There was only one anxious moment in the Final. This occurred even before the match even started.

Taylor said: "The World Cup is so brilliantly organised that they have everything timed down to the last second.

"Unbelievably they forgot to put in the corner flags before the start of the match following the pre-match functions and it must have been the first World Cup Final which did not start exactly upon time.

"I had no alternative because the corner flags are a vital part of the game and until they were correctly in place the match could not be started."

The West Germany team before their opening match in the 1974 World Cup finals . . . and Gunther Netzer is missing. Left to right: Hoeness, Breitner, Vogts, Grabowski, Muller, Overath, Heynckes, Schwarzenbeck, Cullmann, Maier and Beckenbauer.

POLITICS REARS ITS UGLY HEAD

by Keir Radnedge

KEEPING politics out of sport, whether you think it desirable or not, seems impossible these days. Whether you talk about Black Africa boycotting British teams; or the merits of the Lions rugby tour of South Africa; or the wish of China to return to the FIFA fold, there is no getting away from it: sport has to exist in a world where all too often its administrators and competitors can be manipulated for purposes completely foreign to athletic competition.

It is no new phenomenon: Uruguay got the 1930 World Cup partly because they were going all out to celebrate their centenary as an independent republic; Mussolini "used" the 1934 finals to glorify his own regime; Hungarian players were drugooned into Honved, the army team, to ensure international prestige and success, and so on.

The European Championship, in the days when it was the Nations' Cup, had Spain refusing to play Russia and being eliminated; and East German teams for many years found great difficulties in hopping about Western Europe in the club competitions.

Which brings me to the main point I have to make.

While at the World Cup—which, I must say, I enjoyed—I read through a ton of official handouts, newspapers and magazines. On returning home I went carefully through the English Press reports from West Germany.

And I found that every one, without exception, I think, had swallowed what can only be the political insistence of the West Germans in claiming pre-war German results in their own records.

Sources

What I mean is illustrated in the case of the West Germany v. Poland game. These two nations have played each other five times. But if you believe most of the official sources, they have met ten times. Those ten include games in 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1938.

Clearly it was a good "angle" for a story to be able to write: "We have played Poland ten times and never been beaten." Ten sounds better than five — more impressive.

But I think we have quite enough double-talk in football already without this kind of ludicrous pretence.

Even more peculiar: what we all refer to in English as the "West German FA" is in reality the "Deutscher Fussball Bund," — that is, the *German* FA. Willie Brandt's *Ostpolitic* obviously did not even penetrate his own side of the Iron Curtain.

Perhaps such schizophrenia might have been justified back in the Cold War days, when East Germany had yet to throw off its tag as the "Soviet Zone."

But surely, now that the East German team has taken part in a World Cup on West German territory — and beaten the West as well! —the fakacy could be dropped, and the results and references to the past presented correctly.

It compounds the fracture to look through a West German list of national champions and read the name "Rapid Vienna."

After all, why cling so ferociously to the past? It isn't as if the football teams of pre-war Germany were very successful!

ITALY AND THE POLES

by Brian Glanville

DID the Italians try to bribe the Poles, before and during their World Cup match in Stuttgart? Perhaps we shall never know, but those of you who have followed the ramifications of the Lobo Case will feel as uneasy about the whole squalid affair as I do. Information received both from Polish and Italian sources leads me to believe that in this instance, it was certainly a question of there being no smoke without fire, but the evident reluctance of the Poles to stand by their initial charges will probably mean that the Italians, once again, slip out of trouble.

Let me recall to you what happened. A few days after the World Cup Final, the Polish newspaper *Zycie Warszawy* published an interview with the World Cup team manager, Kazimier Gorski, conducted by the journalist Lukas Zielinski. In the course of it, Gorski remarked that attempts had been made by "wealthy supporters of the Italian team" to bribe some of his players, at half-time, when Italy were 2-0 down, to allow them to draw.

There followed an interview given by Gorski to *Ansa*, the Italian News Agency, in which he was reported as saying that he himself had no direct evidence of such an attempt, but that he had merely heard about it through his players. Meanwhile the West German mass circulating tabloid, *Bild Zeitung*, had published a front page story with declarations attributed to Tomaszewski, the giant goalkeeper, and Gorgon, the scarcely smaller centre-half.

Tomaszewski was reported as saying that as he went out on to the field for the second half, an Italian tried to make an offer to him, but that he avoided him and ran on. Gorgon was alleged to have said that he was offered, on the field, $2,000 a man if the Italians were allowed to draw.

An then: the somersault. A further interview with Gorski by Zielinski in *Zycie Warszawy* in which Zielinski almost cringingly confessed, if that is the word, that he had misunderstood Gorski, while Gorski himself went to great and fulsome lengths to exonerate the Italians of any such attempted corruption, and to insist that he had never suggested it in any way.

My own information on the subject was rather different. Inquiries made in Warsaw revealed that it was an open secret among journalists there that not one but several attempts had been made: that an Italian emissary had gone to the Poles' hotel the evening before the match, had offered $30,000 for a draw, and had been laughed out of court: that an unidentified Italian had made signs to the Polish trainers' bench, during the match, to suggest an accommodation: that Deyna, the Polish captain, had been approached by a senior Italian player in the second half and been offered $1,000 a man were the Italians permitted to draw.

I must in all fairness add that I have been quite unable to track down the statements attributed in *Bild Zeitung* to Tomaszewski and Gorgon. They did not so far as my enquiries show, appear in the Polish Press, like Gorski's initial declaration; nor have inquiries made to *Bild Zeitung's* London office produced any other information than that they emanated from Warsaw.

Facchetti of Italy and Ayala of Argentina during a World Cup match.

Attempts

My own view, as I have already intimated, is that attempts *were* made, but that for reasons which we can only surmise, Gorski and the Poles want to let the matter rest. I have been told that Gorski himself asked the Polish journalists in West Germany to write nothing about the bribery attempt before the match against Italy, in case it ended in a genuine draw, and thus led to all sorts of baseless speculations about the Poles' commitment.

Poland and Italy meet again in the European Championship qualifying rounds, which has been suggested to me as a possible reason for the Poles' reluctance to "press charges." My own feeling is one of regret. For ten years, the leading Italian clubs have, in the vernacular, got away with murder, and there have been several instances in which the national team itself has been impugned.

Italy, back row left to right: Facchetti, Spinose, Zoff, Morini, Riva. Front row: Capello, Mazzola, Anastasi, Causio, Burgnich, Furino.

Never has anyone been fully exposed and brought to justice: not even in the Lobo Case, revealed in the *Sunday Times* by my colleagues Keith Botsford and myself. I and my Italian informants have a very good idea who was behind the attempted corruption of the Poles, and they would be as pleased as I to see such people hounded out of Italian football, which in the long run they have so badly damaged: how ever many dubious, short rein successes may have been attained. But if the Poles won't speak up and do their duty by the international game, then there is little to be done.

Last month, I wrote of the astonishing, anti-Semitic tirade which the Lobo revelations brought from the leading Italian sports journalist, Gianni Brera, who wrote in *Guerin Sportivo* that, being of "Hebraic religion," I evidently had knowledge of my "brother in Jehovah" Dezso Solti denied to Italian journalists. The truth, of course, is that I have never met Solti, the Hungarian refugee who tried to bribe Lobo, in my life, but he was for years a close friend of Brera.

During the World Cup itself, there were other, curious repercussions of the Lobo Affair: or, if you prefer it, the Solti Case. Shortly before the tournament began, I went up to the Italian training camp at Mon Repos, Ludwigsburg, outside Stuttgart, to talk to the players and coaches. The *Corriere Della Sera* of Milan wrote next day that I had been received by the players "like Father Christmas," but that Italo Allodi, the team's general manager (and General Manager of Juventus at the time of the matches against Derby County) had "done a slalom" to avoid me.

So far as I was concerned, Allodi and I had simply ignored each other: what was there to say?

The *Corriere Della Sera's* jibe, however, seemed to cut Allodi to the quick. On Thursday, June 13, he unleashed an extraordinary tirade: "I have put up with the visit of this figure," he proclaimed, "only to avoid any disturbance among the clan of the *azzurri* (Italian national team). I waited in vain for him to present himself so that I could tell him what I thought of him. Since people have got to the point of writing that I have tried to 'dribble round' him, as if to imply that I'm a coward (*literally: have a tail of straw*) then I'm obliged to state publicly that I'll happily bring this Mr. Glanville to court, but not in Italy, in England, better still, in London."

Honest man

This Mr. Glanville is waiting, equally happily, for it to happen. Allodi went ranting on, saying it was time to stop "vomiting insults and suspicion on Italian football." He himself was *una persona per bene*, an honest man. If there was anybody who could prove the contrary, let him come forward. If there was a dossier to be opened proving him corrupt, then let it be opened. "But I shall not tolerate calumny or tendentious jibes."

Allodi's outburst, said the *Gazzetta Dello Sport*, was "violently protracted for twenty minutes . . . before some 30 Italian journalists, two Brazilians, two Argentinians and a Mexican (these last literally astounded)."

I am not surprised.

What did positively shock me was that, after the comic opera and the failure of the Italian World Cup expedition, Allodi SHOULD THEN BE ASKED TO TAKE SOLE CHARGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM! Off he went to consider it. While he was doing so, someone at last had the guts to speak out. Needless to say, it wasn't an Italian journalist.

Appeared

It was Nereo Rocco, the old warrior who for years managed Milan with such success and is now in charge of Fiorentina. His tirade appeared on page one of the *Gazzetta Dello Sport*; that same paper which had said only weeks before, "if Allodi did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him."

Who, demanded Rocco, *was* Allodi? What had he ever done as a player? Or as a manager? He had merely been assistant to Edmondo Fabbri when Mantova were in Division C (Three).

Allodi, in the event, decided not to accept the job of "sole responsible" for the Italian National team. And Brera, in his newspaper *Il Giorno*, has denied making any racialistic observation about Solti or myself, over the Lobo case. If this be true, then someone else must have signed his article in *Guerin Sportivo*, of which the photostat lies on my desk.

Golden era for brilliant West Germans

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

WEST GERMANY'S triumph in the World Cup has set a golden seal on a recent series of performances which are unrivalled by any other country. German football can indeed look back on a decade of consistent success which has made their country the leading soccer nation in the world. Since 1966, in three competitions, the West German national team has won the World Cup, been runners-up (1966) and third (1970). In addition, they won the last European Championship (1972).

West Germany's champion club Bayern Munich are the current holders of the European Cup, having already won the Cup Winners Cup in 1967. Other German clubs who have made their mark in international competitions are Borussia Dortmund, who also won the Cup Winners Cup (1966), whilst 1860 Munich (1965) and Hamburger SV (1968) have reached the final of this tournament. Eintracht Frankfurt were finalists in the Champions Cup (1960), as were Borussia Monchengladbach in the UEFA Cup (1973).

These achievements are all the more remarkable since barely ten years ago the vast majority of Germany's first class footballers were amateurs, while the elite were just part timers. One of their greatest players Uwe Seeler, for instance, was paid by his club the Hamburger SV a mere £8 per week. Naturally, in common with other soccer stars here, he had to work for a living and to that purpose most German players had to learn a trade or profession.

Salesman

Even the great Franz Beckenbauer, who began his first class career in 1964, trained at first to become an insurance salesman and also worked for some 18 months as a supervisor in a clothing store. In those days to play for the national team was regarded as the greatest honour and there were no cash rewards of any kind—not even for a win! No wonder that several leading internationals like Haller, Schnellinger and Brulls had left Germany to join Italian clubs in order to become full professionals.

The major credit for the splendid record of the national side must go to manager Helmut Schon, who took over from his illustrious boss Sepp Herberger in 1964. Schon himself, while with the Dresdner SC, was one of the finest strikers the country has produced. He played with great distinction for the national team, for whom he scored 17 goals in just 16 internationals, between 1937 and 1941. Like his contemporaries Schon too had to earn a living outside football. He learned the banking business and was also employed as an industrial foreign correspondent.

Schon who was born on September 15, 1915 in Planitz, played for the S3 Planitz, Dresdener SC, Dresden-Friedrichstadt, St. Pauli-Hamburg and Hertha Berlin. He won two championship titles (1943 and 1944) and two cup winners medals (1940 and 1941). As a manager he led Hertha Berlin, SV Wiesbaden and was then employed by the Saarland FA, before joining the DFB as Herberger's assistant in 1956.

Extrovert

Schon's critics, who tried to pin on him the label "cautious", often had to eat their words. He was time and again selecting creative, adventurous and extrovert players and he allowed them free expression within the tactical dispositions which he himself chose for his team. Beckenbauer, Netzer and even Muller were given free reins to play the game their own way and even to dictate the pattern for the whole side.

Beckenbauer as captain is called by the Germans "*das verlangerte Arm des Bundestrainers*" (the extended arm of the Federal coach)—meaning that he executes on the field the orders of the supremo. Thus Beckenbauer's commanding role has sometimes been misinterpreted as an attempt to dictate tactics by himself, when in fact he was merely carrying out the instructions given by Helmut Schon.

Despite being meticulous and thorough in his preparations and although he often displayed a marked preference for old established and trusted players (Overath!), Schon was never afraid to experiment. His clever use of Jurgen Grabowski, as a tactical substitute, helped the Germans to reach the quarter-finals where they defeated England after trailing by 0-2, and then claimed third place in the Mexico World Cup.

And who can forget his gamble before the vital quarter-final first leg in the European Championship, against England at Wembley in 1972. A string of injuries, plus threatened disciplinary proceedings against players from Schalke had deprived his squad of such stars as Vogts, Fichtel, Overath, Weber and Schnellinger. Schon's decision to plunge such international novices as the two 20-year-olds Paul Breitner and Uli Hoeness, together with two defenders then going through a sticky patch like Hottges and Schwarzenbeck, into the cauldron of Wembley, had shocked the whole of Germany. But this far from settled team triumphed by 3-1 and laid the foundation to the ultimate victory in the final.

In the recent world series the German boss took prompt action when his team lost the prestige clash against East Germany by 0-1. He boldly drafted four fresh men into the side, including the internationally inexperienced Herzog, Bonhof and Holzenbein, plus Wimmer. But Schon showed courage and conviction by recalling the temporarily dropped Grabowski and Hoeness for the vital battles later on, and for the final itself.

Changes

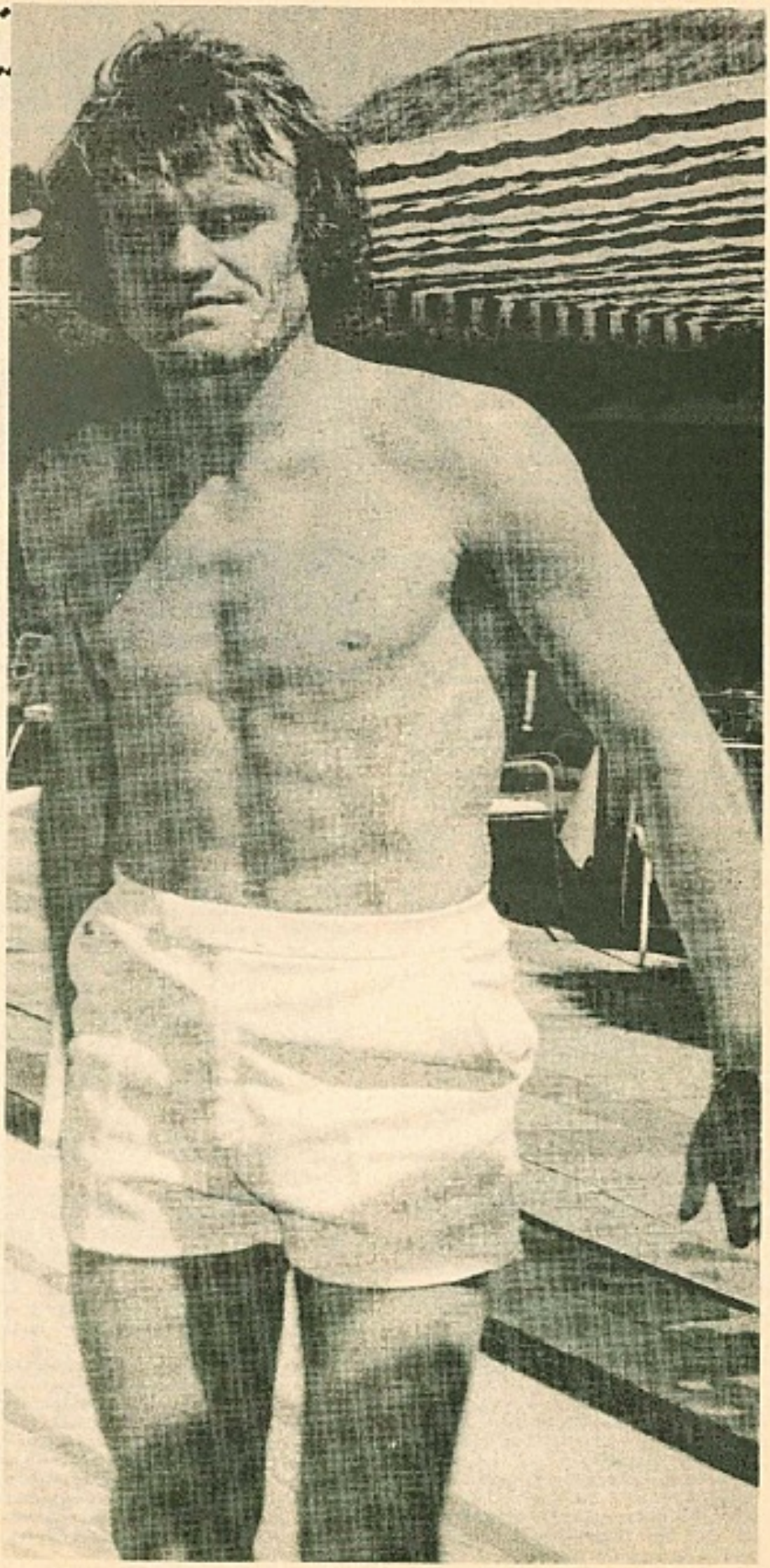
Thus in the last match the German team showed only two changes (Holzenbein for Heynckes and Bonhof for Cullmann) from Schon's original selection at the start of the tournament! There were apparently bitter recriminations following the totally unexpected slump against the neighbours from the East and it is clear, that team captain Franz Beckenbauer exercised a major influence on Schon's decision to leave out some of the big names for the next match.

But all this is now past history. And according to an appreciable majority of neutral observers, as well as experts who are well versed in modern football, the world title was deservedly won by the better team.

The Germans knew more than the Dutch about the psychological approach to a decisive encounter, they knew how to pace themselves in a seven-match torney and how to control a game tactically, as they demonstrated in the Final. It is as simple as that.

Whether the world champions' team will remain together for the battles to defend the

Sepp Maier of West Germany.



European Championship, which begin in the autumn, is a matter of speculation. Immediately after the world final Gerd Muller and Paul Breitner declared that they will not play for the national team again. Muller wants the friendly v. Switzerland on September 4, in Basel, to be his "farewell" appearance. Breitner will devote the next two years to the completion of his academic studies, which are connected with teaching handicapped children and he feels that he has enough on his plate just playing for his club Bayern.

Most Germans — including manager Schon—do not believe that Muller is serious. It is felt, that the long time spent in the training camp before and during the World Cup, has badly affected some of the players already under tremendous pressures from all sides. The whole country expected them to win the title. When in 1954 Herberger's team was crowned world champions, the whole German nation went berserk with joy. This time the ultimate triumph was anticipated by millions of fans over here and so the celebrations were, by comparison, quite muted.

Foundations

Thus, Schon's personal struggle to live up to the Herberger "legend", ended in glory. 20 years later and 10 years after taking office, Schon too had lifted the world crown for Germany. The foundations to this success were laid eleven years ago. Then the German legislators wisely decided to introduce at last full time professional football and to streamline the championship by creating a National League (Bundesliga). It soon became apparent, that the assembly of the elite clubs and players in this Super League would contribute to a rapid rise in the standard of football. The Bundesliga consisted at first of 16 clubs, but it was increased to 18 teams in 1965.

Until 1963, German clubs disputed only regional championships in five geographically divided Leagues called South, South-West, West, North and Berlin. At the conclusion of their programme the winners and runners-up from each of these "Regional-Liga" were drawn into two groups, whose winners then played on a neutral ground for the country's championship title.

But it was the fierce competition during the past decade between the best teams of professionally trained players, whics has produced such world class stars as Beckenbauer, Muller, Netzer and Overath — to name but a few. The recent string of successes has helped to renew interest in the game, which was so badly hit by the unfortunate disclosures of briberies and the corruption scandals. Last season in fact, the fans have really returned in force: the *Bundesliga* claimed 1,300,000 spectators more than the year before! Exciting, attacking football, frequent changes in leadership and the highest scoring ratio in Europe of 3.54 goals per match, have contributed to this revival. Attendances were in fact the best for five years. Some clubs have almost doubled their gates, while FC Schalke have nearly trebled theirs!

HUNGARY ON A DISASTER COURSE?

by Leslie Vernon

FROM the sublime to the faintly ridiculous . . . The Hungarians, after years of slumbering mediocrity, suddenly swung the proverbial pendulum with such force, that it might point to a disaster course.

I have just returned from a short holiday in Budapest, where I was a slightly bewildered witness to a great deal of furious activity. I feel that in their commendable enthusiasm, the new F.A. administration have gone too far in their wholesale introduction of sweeping reforms.

They have instructed the clubs to follow a training schedule drawn up by the F.A. coaching committee under the chairmanship of Lajos Baroti. This spartan document compels the coaches to train their charges four hours a day, often under a blazing sun, with the emphasis on running and weight-work.

Imitating the Dutch and W. Germans is all the rage, so the players are told to run and run and then run some more.

Competitions

As a further punishment for past sins, it was decreed that the championship must be played-off on "English" lines, i.e. two matches per week! To fill the remaining dates, such meaningless competitions were introduced as the "Championship of Champions", Balaton-Cup, Tisza-Cup, Liberation-Cup, League-Cup. Luckily, Hungary is a relatively small country, so they couldn't name any more tournaments after lakes or rivers.

This toughening-up programme means that players like Laszlo Fazekas (the Dozsa forward is currently the best Hungarian footballer), bar injuries, will play between 28-32 competitive matches in four months.

Apart from this strenuous task, he is compelled by law to spend 24 hours per week at his place of "civilian" work.

Fortune

To motivate the players, increased incentives were also introduced, and a "star" with a successful club can earn a small fortune. A well-informed journalist told me that a Dozsa player—if his team won the league and goes as far as the semi-finals of the European Cup—would pick up 300.000 forints (!) during the season.

This is a fantastic amount of money in Hungary, and no-one, I repeat, absolutely no-one in any other walk of life, could hope to earn a similar amount. Not bad for amateur, is it?

But I cannot see the reason for dangling such a huge financial carrot in front of the players' noses. Does more money make them better players? Are running, jumping, weightlifting, mountain-climbing, deep-sea diving the best methods to produce a Cruyff or a Luis Pereira?

I hope so, because I wish them well, but frankly I doubt it. Still, perhaps the Budapest coffee-house cynics are right when they say that this "intensified programme" is devised to stop the players from enjoying the dolce vita.

After the tough four hours' training sessions, compulsory work in offices and factories, who has the energy to misbehave? But will they have the necessary energy left to kick a football, when it really matters?

To complete the new brave westernised world of Hungarian soccer, a couple of transfer sensations have captured the headlines. Ferencvaros have finally decided that Lajos Ku is an incorrigible "trouble-maker" and he was told that his services were no longer required. He was immediately snapped-up by Vasas, proving once again that crime does pay.

Rudolf Illovszky, the Vasas manager, said: "We do not pretend that our disciplinary methods are more efficient than that of Ferencvaros. But in a different environment, Ku might learn to behave himself. He knows that this is his last chance." (In fact, it is his fifth "last chance").

Miklos Panesics, the 37-times capped centre-back, was also allowed to leave Fradi. He has joined his old coach, Karoly Lakat, at Honved, taking the place of Ruzsinszki (now with Cxepel). Outside-right Istvan Szoke has disappeared. According to rumours, he is in Belgium or Holland or W. Germany or the Canary Islands.

As a defector, Szoke will have to wait for one or two years before a FIFA clearance is granted to him, but I suppose some misguided management will finance him, in the hope of sterling service to come. Many of these homeless mercenaries have taken down-payments from several clubs, and have then decided to join one not yet tapped. As these under-the-counter deals are strictly illegal, the duped clubs can only whistle for their money.

Of the teams playing in Europe, only Ferencvaros were happy with the draw. Albert Flirian, new general manager of the green-and-whites, told me: "Cardiff is a Second Division outfit and I believe that they are not quite as strong as Sunderland, Vasas's conquerors last season. Although playing in the English league must be a good recommendation, we ought to beat them."

Dozsa were paired with the strong Levski Spartak, and remembering CSKA Sofia's giant killing act last season (v. Ajax), they represent a tough opening tie. Newcomers to the UEFA Cup, the two provincials Videoton and Raba Eto, are also in danger of instant elimination.

The former drew the experienced Naples, and Raba will play the Bonev-team, Lokomotiv Plovdiv. But, of course, the exploits of the national team in the European Championship are of the utmost importance. This is the full international programme for the autumn season.

Full Internationals:

v. Austria (Vienna Sept. 29)
v. Luxembourg (Luxembourg Oct. 13) —European Championship
v. Wales (Cardiff Oct. 30)—E.C.
v. Vulgaria (Sofia Nov. 10)
v. Switzerland (Szolnok, Dec. 7)

Under-23:

v. Luxembourg (Luxembourg Oct. 13)
v. Bulgaria (Debrecen Nov. 10)
v. Rumania (U-21) (Gyongyos, Nov. 10)

Olympic squad:

v. Czechoslovakia (Eger. Oct. 13)
v. Canada (Budapest Oct. 16)

The championship will start on August 30 (Friday) with the Dozsa v. Raba match. There will be a full round of matches on the following day. Most of the games will be played-off on Wednesdays and Saturdays, with the 15th and last autumn fixtures scheduled for November 30.

by Eric Thornton

Futcher twins are Luton's big investment

IT LOOKS as if it's going to be a great season for many, though a testing time for some others. Particularly those teenagers who are keen to prove that they really are worth their weight in gold—the gold that has been paid out for them.

Which teenagers? That's the obvious question. Yet without listing dozens from my records I'll give you just two of to-day's classic examples. Enter the ambitious 17-year-old Futcher twins,—Paul and Ron.

They have moved from Fourth Division Chester to First Division Luton Town in exchange for £150,000. Which is an awful lot of money for a couple of kids, and more especially when it's realised that they've been valued at around £30 an ounce!

It's staggering to contemplate, and equally eyebrow-raising when a transfer of this kind involves a buying club which has never been counted among the wealthy, and almost always has to manage on very average crowds.

But, by the same chalk, it reveals courage not only by the board, but also by the manager, and goes to show once again that Harry Haslam in at least prepared to back personal judgement and gamble with high stakes when it's really necessary.

Apparently, the Chester folk will take a good-sized down payment, and then gather in the rest in regular instalments over the next few years, a system which will certainly provide a nice and continuing fillip to the finances of this ancient county town's club.

Agreement

It was quite a chase while it lasted. Many others wanted these boys. Managers from all parts took careful stock, especially Everton, Manchester City, Coventry City, Spurs, and so on. But Haslam, first to make up his mind about their possibilities, wasted little time on reaching agreement about figures.

First to sign was Paul, a strong-playing defender who was valued at £110,000. Then, within just a few weeks brother Ron, a striker costing £40,000, took the same route south, and they were re-united, and very happy about it, too.

It may be that Paul will adjust first, having had the benefit of slightly longer experience —to wit: twenty-one first-team appearances in bottom drawer stuff which, nevertheless, provides almost a veteran touch when balanced against Ron's meagre twelve.

Whatever the outcome, however, they only need to glance at the records if ever in need of personal boosts, and they'll quickly discover that youngsters of similar tender ages have trod the same trial time and again in other years.

For instance, Albert Geldard. Then again Derek Forster, Cliff Bastin, Terry Venables, Jimmy Greaves, Howard Kendall, Denis Law and the rest. Mostly they wrote their names in letters of gold.

Geldard, kiddo of the lot, was only 15 years and 156 days old when he played in the League for Bradford Park Avenue, and was still being capped by England nine years on.

Forster was the youngest Football League goalkeeper in history when making a debut for Sunderland at 15 years and 185 days, and young Bastin, whom Arsenal signed from Exeter City, was a full international and collected FA Cup and League championship medals long before his twentieth birthday.

Venables had England caps at five levels when only twenty, Greaves was claiming a century of League goals at the same age, while Kendall was a Cup Final wing-half for Preston as a mere stripling of 17.

Law was starring for Huddersfield Town at the same age, and sixteen years afterwards is still proving formidable in the top flight for both Scotland and Manchester City.

All of which underlines the way ahead to success for any youngsters with latent ability, courage and the right dedication—which the brothers Futcher, from the pleasant county of Cheshire appear to possess in abundance.

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By Albert Sewell

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News from France by ANDRE DUCLOS

CESAR AND KARASI ARRIVE FOR A RANSOM

IF you can't go to the World Cup, you can always make the World Cup come to you. That, in a sense, is what we French have done. We have Paulo Cesar, the black Paulo Cesar to be precise, at Olympique Marseilles. We have no less a personage than Karasi, the man who headed the Yugoslav goal against Scotland which put his team into the lead, and effectively put the Scots out of the World Cup.

Paulo Cesar has cost Marseilles a king's ransome. Will he be worth it? Olympique can only hope and pray. For Paulo Cesar, who was expected to be a star in West Germany, in fact had a poor World Cup, and was even accused of lack of effort by some of his senior team mates. When he is good, he is very very good; but that is inclined to happen somewhat sporadically. At his best, Paulo Cesar could put new life and verve into a Marseille team which badly needs it. So let us hope he will be at his best.

In the meantime, Rogert Magnusson, the Swedish international right winger whose brother was a member of the Swedish World Cup party — and would have been himself four years ago, had Olympique not demanded so much money from the Swedish F.A. — has been sold to Red Star, of Saint Ouen, just outside Paris.

What will happen to Bernard Bosquier is still anybody's guess. Still only 32, scarcely a ripe old age in football nowadays. Bosquier would probably still be a French international had he not voluntarily withdrawn from the national team. Now Marseilles have brusquely told him that he will play this season in their Division III team. Why ever, under these circumstances, keep him at all, was the question that sprang to mind. But Olympique have their own, strange way of doing things. So Bosquier, whose signing for Marseilles, with Carnus, caused such cataclysmic trouble a few years ago, remained behind while the first team squad went off for training. Not the kind of humiliation that this fine defender will readily endure. Yet one cannot help thinking how ironically the whole affair has turned out.

Leading side

It may be remembered that when it leaked out that he and the goalkeeper Carnus, though still key members of Saint Etienne's Championship leading side, had signed for Marseilles for the following season, there was fury at Saint Etienne. Both players were dropped, and Marseilles, without even having the playing service of the two benefited immediately. Saint Etienne fell apart, Olympique came from far far behind, to win the title. And now...

Stanislav Karasi was wanted by no fewer than seven different clubs, Dutch and Greek among them. A Red Star player whom Liverpool as well as Scotland fans will remember with respect, he will be 28 next November, has signed a three year contract, and thus ends a 15 year career with his Belgrade club.

You will doubtless recall the salient role played by Karasi in the World Cup match against Poland in Frankfurt. He gave away a penalty by kicking the Polish centre-forward, Szarmach, when the ball was yards away, then scored a brilliant equaliser. Karasi, in an interview with *France Football*, says that Szarmach elbowed him in the stomach and that this provoked him into giving him a "slight" kick, which Szarmach greatly dramatised.

He denies that he is a "difficult" character on the field. He never looks for trouble, he insists, but if somebody comes looking for him, then they will eventually find him. In Yugoslavia, he usually scored some fifteen goals a season. If he can keep that up in a French Championship which certainly isn't as hard, then Lille will no doubt be overjoyed.

Happily, we have Stefan Kovacs, that lovely little Rumanian, back for another year as manager of our international team. He comes back from the World Cup, as you would imagine, as great a believer in the Total Football which he practised with Ajax as ever; a believer in the necessity for any player to be able to do any and everything. Can he, however, put his precepts and preferences into action in France? Only, he says, if the clubs are prepared to follow that path.

He believes that the World Cup, contrary to the opinion of some, is not the salient influence on the game; that it is the clubs, playing so much more often, that set the pattern and the pace. The World Cup, played only every four years, must merely follow suit. For him, Total Football, which triumphed in the World Cup, does not belong to any particular race or country; "it is a truth for all the world." There is no more room for a passive player, a player who just stands by while a comrade makes a mistake. A player is no longer a soldier, isolated from the general conflict. His role must take in "the whole battle."

European coaches

Kovacs says that the South Americans realise that they have been completely left behind by this development in European football. He expects them to call in European coaches to bring them, their teams and their players up to date. He himself is going to try to bring the French international players together more often; and not only the players but the young managers and coaches, besides.

But he insists that it is between the ages of 17 and 20 that a footballer "acquires the indispensable means" to play what he calls Total Football. It is not enough to say, we shall play like the Dutch or the West Germans, if the basis to do so isn't there, isn't good. So French football must he says, make its choice. And if it hesitates, if it wastes time, "it will discover the football of today when the others have discovered the football of tomorrow."

A clarion call, if you like. Will French football be bold enough to follow it, and him, bold enough to embrace the Total Football of today?

COLIN JOSE . . . . . from Canada

Media get soccer bug

SCOTLAND and Brazil are tied at half time, there is no score. The word spreads like wildfire down the assembly lines, through the still mills and into factories and offices alike. "What of the other games?" one man asks, and so the World Cup scores were passed from fan to fan across North America.

Meanwhile in the offices of newspapers and radio and television stations alike, the telephones were ringing off the hook as anxious fans who were not near a radio phoned to find out if the nation of their birth had met with triumph or disaster.

The North American news media, which is usually largely indifferent to soccer (with certain exceptions, of course, where the World Cup even made the front page) and treated the opening World Cup games with disdain, was suddenly forced by sheer weight of interest to improve their coverage. Instead of reading the local baseball scores first, soccer took top billing and for some sportscasters it was a very bitter pill to swallow.

While all this was happening (and remember due to the time difference kick off times were 11 am and 2.30 pm New York time) thousands of ex Europeans and South Americans and a small percentage of native North Americans were paying thousands of dollars to watch the games on closed circuit television.

Telecasts

In Canada some games were shown on a delayed basis on home television and one game — the Third Place Final between Poland and Brazil — was shown live. Assisting with these telecasts were former Scottish internationals Graham Leggat and Bill Brown.

As the World Cup picture unfolded so the soccer season across North America continued with record crowds in such unlikely spots as Seattle and San Jose. The Los Angeles Aztecs, unbeaten in their first eight games, suddenly lost four of their next five to open the door for the Seattle Sounders to make a bid for the number one spot in the Western Division. Meanwhile the other divisional races continued to be wide open.

Last year the Philadelphia Atoms, in their first season, swept all before them to win the NASL championship, while their coach Al Miller became NASL Coach of the Year. This year it is a different story for after a fine start in which they won their first four games handily they ran into a rough patch and when they dropped a 2-1 decision to the Toronto Metros it was their seventh defeat in 15 games. Meanwhile the Baltimore Comets led the Eastern Division in a close three way race with the Miami Toros.

Why the slip after such a good start? "Our first four games were against expansion clubs," explained Miller who was the first American born coach in the league. "But in those games we picked up a lot of niggling injuries which upset the rhythm and balance of the team and we have never really recovered from this." What of his young American born left back Tom Galati? "This boy has played splendidly all year and I will be very surprised if he isn't voted the best young player in the league this year."

Discussing the night's game the always affable Miller said "Tonight we didn't play well in the first half, but in the second I thought it started to come and we were controlling the play. Toronto are a good team, I have always considered them one of the best in the league. Arthur Rodrigues has done a terrific job with this club."

Toronto, however, are having their problems after a fine start and the team has not played as well as in 1973. Although they still possess the potential to beat any team in the NASL on their day injuries have hurt the team while their old nemesis of failing to put the ball in the net despite excellent approach work has cost them a number of games.

The New York Cosmos champions in 1972 are having a disastrous season having won but two of 14 games while losing 11. As a result attendances have declined to the crisis point with only 1,301 on hand for their last home game.

Boston currently lead the Northern Division with the Rochester Lancers close behind, with Toronto the early season leaders now third and New York bringing up the rear. The Dallas Tornados for whom Kyle Rote the golden boy of American soccer is having a poor season lead in the Central Division while the St Louis Stars now an all American club are close behind.

Seattle and San Jose are chasing Los Angeles in the West while Vancouver who with a largely Canadian born team are averaging close to 10,000, bring up the rear. Vancouver have been adversely affected by the penalty kick rule introduced by the NASL this season to avert drawn games. The Whitecaps have tied eight of their sixteen games while winning four and losing four. Four of the eight games have been lost on penalty kicks and four won. However a tie win counts for only three points, while a normal win counts for six.

Three young Canadian players, Carmelo Barbieri, Bruce Miller and Peter Roe have been training in West Germany recently with Fortuna Cologne while eleven other members of the national team that is preparing for the 1976 Olympics will shortly undergo two weeks training with other European clubs.

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Robert Rensenbrink of Holland says

We did not adopt the wrong tactics

Question: Since the beginning of the World Cup back in 1930, seven teams have lost the Final after having scored first: Czechoslovakia (1934 and 1962); Brazil (1950); Hungary (1954); Sweden (1958); West Germany (1966); and finally Holland (1974). Were the Dutch players aware of these statistics in Munich?

Answer: Hardly, if at all. I think I speak for the rest of the side when I say that we were conscious of only one thing, namely the tremendous strength of our West German opponents, records and statistics never entered our minds.

We all of us knew that this was going to be the severest test of our footballing lives not just because we were playing in the Final, but mainly because of the quality of the opposition.

Before the Final took place, Rinus Michels said, and I quote him: "Everyone regards us as the favourites now and we'll have to live with that burden. The danger is that players may start believing they are the champions before they go on the field." Yet, from his position on the bench, after that sensational opening in Munich, he never said or did anything that might have stopped his team's irresponsible attempt to ridicule the Germans. . . .

I think you're being a bit harsh both on Mr. Michels and the team as a whole. Of course I am aware that we were criticised throughout the world for the way we played after our early opening goal.

But I feel all this adverse comment about our tactics is completely unjustified. It is true that we missed a golden opportunity of sealing the Germans' fate just after Neeskens' goal, but as you know we simply don't play the game that way. There is a case for saying that we became too over-confident too early on in the match, and maybe we did.

But I don't think we adopted the wrong tactics at all. Our only mistake was not translating the many chances offered us into goals.

During the second-half of the Final you were substituted because of injury. As a spectator when did you realise that the Cup wasn't going to be yours after all?

I knew the Cup was Germany's as soon as we started missing so many chances throughout the second-half. Mind you, I had a feeling it wasn't going to be our day in the first half when the English referee gave Germany a penalty.

Frankly, like Johan Cruyff, I felt very strongly that this penalty should never have been given.

Before the match between Holland and Brazil took place, Brazilian midfield player Clodoaldo said: "If Zagalo manages to pull this one off, we'll build a monument to him back home."

I of course had an extra reason for wanting a Dutch win, as I celebrated my 27th birthday that very day.

Oh, Clodoaldo knew what he was talking about. It certainly was sad to see the Brazilians, for so many years the leading advocates and exponents of the attacking game, playing in such a negative and ultra-defensive fashion.

During the tournament, and notably in the match against Brazil at Dortmund, Holland's defence showed how vulnerable it could be. Why wasn't Rinus Israel used more often? After all he is rated the best central defender in Holland. . . .

Although Rinus is undoubtedly the best Dutch central defender playing in Holland, German-born Horst Blankenburg of Ajax must surely be the leading back-four man in the Dutch First Division. As to your question: Possibly if Mr. Michels had used Rinus more often our defence would have been just that shade tighter.

Now that the World Cup is over, we are all looking forward to seeing Holland do well in the forthcoming European Championship. Of course it's still early days, but would it be a wise move on my part to bet on an eventual Dutch victory?

If you are patient enough to wait two years to collect your winnings why not! But don't forget that before you start thinking in terms of our becoming European Champions, we've got to do well against Italy in November. Although the Italians failed miserably in Germany, they are by no means a spent force.

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No trainers on field of play is good

by Ken Goldman

ONE of the biggest talking points in Referees Societies at the moment emanates from the very efficient and effective interpretation by referees in the recent World Cup of Law 5 as it relates to injuries on the field.

Law 5(f) in this respect as you will recollect states the referee shall "Stop the game if in his opinion a player has been seriously injured; have the player removed as soon as possible from the field of play and immediately resume the game. If a player is slightly injured the game shall not be stopped until the ball has ceased to be in play. A player who is able to go to the touch- or goal-line for attention of any kind shall not be treated on the field of play".

This rule was rigidly enforced in Germany during the World Cup and the question now is will we see it put into force in Football League matches here and then by percolation through television be administered in junior and park football.

Responsibility

Let us face it, despite the fact that the above quotation from the Laws is the only section in the whole 17 Laws to be set out in heavy type, in Britain, the Law has been more honoured in its breach than by its observance. Indeed one trainer told an audience of which I was one, that he always "bought time" for his players by saying to the referee who was pressing him to get on with things "O.K. Ref will you take the responsibility if this player is seriously injured?"

The referee, of course, rarely being a medical man or having any training in treatment of injuries has no option but to back down in this situation. However if the example shown in Germany was made uniform over here, it would be known from the outset that players could be looked at on the field cursorily, but then removed to the side of the field for treatment if necessary and there would be little chance of advantage being taken of the referee or intimidation implied by remarks of an ambiguous nature.

Unedifying

In this way surely we would be spared the unedifying spectacle of players feigning injury (incidentally a cautionable offence again instanced in Germany) to waste vital time towards the end of a game, or to break up the rhythm of the opposition when they threaten to get on top.

Whilst on the subject of refereeing topics another procedure that should be adopted in football league matches is the issuing by referees to players of the yellow card for cautioning and the red card for dismissal from the field. This has been shown to work extremely successfully in two World Cups now, and since its introduction in Mexico has been adopted in the European Cup Competitions.

It appears to be well appreciated by spectators and often has a salutory effect on players whilst there can be no doubt that the visual stimulus of seeing a coloured card has a much greater effect than a referee scribbling on a variety of writing materials since the "book" is a misnomer for many referees do not in fact carry a notebook as such.

One final note from the German games and this relates to photographers. I have long advocated the danger to players caused by the encroachment of cameramen at football league grounds. Referees in general do not take strict enough control of this aspect until a player canons into the encroaching legs or bodies. In Germany from what I could see there was no such trespass or any trouble at all.

Perhaps we shall see the time come that linesmen when they run out to inspect the goalnets before kick-off will also ensure that photographers are well back from the playing pitch so that no serious accidents can occur.

Incidentally where the referees did fall down in the tournament was to allow too often a goalkeeper to wear a jersey either similar in colour to his own side or that of the opposition. I cannot believe any football league referee would have made such a mistake.

England's former team manager Sir Alf Ramsey at a testimonial dinner in his honour at the Cafe Royal in London. With him are the players who won the World Cup for England in 1966. Back row left to right: Nobby Stiles, Ray Wilson, Jackie Charlton, Roger Hunt, Geoff Hurst, Gordon Banks, Martin Peters and Les Cocker (trainer). Front row: Bobby Charlton, Bobby Moore, Sir Alf Ramsey, Harold Shepherdson, Alan Ball.

GERMAN EFF
EXPOSED AS

LOOKING at the photos of new and rebuilt stadia before the World Cup began it all looked very nice. New roofs constructed over the main stand at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin; the majority of spectators seated at most grounds chosen and above all the super-modern stadium in Munich for the final built for the Olympic Games.

It all looked good and the first impressions confirmed this. Within minutes of arrival at the Press Centre in Frankfurt on the morning of the opening game I had been photographed in colour, documented and presented with tickets for all the games I had requested.

This was a mammoth task and clearly it went smoothly and was well prepared in advance. So far, so good.

The headaches began to present themselves only gradually and the biggest one — travel — was one that, given the decision taken by the German Organising committee some years back, could not be overcome.

Tickets

There were minor problems too, perhaps best summed up by a colleague who suggested that the World Cup was *over-organised*. Trivia under this heading were difficulties encountered when trying to change tickets for the second round before which it was practically impossible to decide which games one would want to see without the aid of a reliable crystal ball.

At one centre I presented myself the day before the game of my choice at 2 p.m. offered my ticket for a game elsewhere and asked for one at the local stadium. In the Organising Committee's Office were two men and a young woman, but I was told to come back at six o'clock. Apparently, these three officials could not change my ticket. Only *der chef* could do that and he was not expected until six.

At previous World Cups, even that in England where the Liverpool squad organised the most terrible chaos I have ever encountered, did better than that. Swapping tickets had previously been easy and automatic.

Again there was a day when it was possible to see two matches — in Dusseldorf at 16.00 and Gelsenkirchen at 19.30. Just for once the journey between the two stadia presented no problem, there was ample time. But asking for a ticket for Dusseldorf, I and others, were told that to get one we must give up our tickets for Gelsenkirchen.

Several journalists I know, managed to see both games, some bribing officials to get an extra ticket, others gambling on getting in at the second game by simply asking for a ticket at Gelsenkirchen shortly before the match began. In the event, I was told there were piles of tickets available at Dusseldorf and no one was locked out at Gelsenkirchen. But, officially, it couldn't be done.

My major complaints fall under two categories:

1. the chosen grounds.
2. the multi-purpose nature of the chosen stadia.

In Mexico, for example, the Organisers could have staged matches up near the border with the U.S.A. and down near Buatemala. Looking at maps, it would have been possible for the Mexicans to have sent us chasing over distances comparable with the trip between Paris and Moscow!

Fortunately, in Mexico, the World Cup centres were all concentrated in a very tight area in the centre of the country but in West Germany the organisers opted for the Paris-Moscow alternative. The result was exhausting, difficult and at times often impossible, not to mention the boredom. If the quality of the football had been high then it may not have been felt so badly but just how the press-man felt about it all can be judged by the consesus of international opinion as taken by me shortly before the final.

Revolved

Belgians, Americans, Finns, Italians and of course myself, all agreed that we didn't mind who won as long as there wasn't a replay that would have kept us all there for another 48 hours. We wanted to go home.

Basically the problem revolved around the decision to play games at nine centres spread over the entire country. From Hamburg to Stuttgart is more than 400 miles (around 640 kilometres); from Frankfurt to Berlin almost as far and my last trek from Dortmund to Munich was a little over 400 miles.

Of course, FIFA had to organise the grounds well in advance and as in previous competitions they laid down certain minimum conditions with reference to percentage of seats to standing, total accommodation, crowd safety, parking and approach facilities.

But it was a deliberate policy question taken by the Germans that sent many people scurrying thousands of miles. In my opinion, a very good World Cup could and should have been organised within the region of Dusseldorf, Essen, Dortmund, Gelsenkirchen, Koln and to hell with Hamburg, Munich and Berlin.

Surprise

The biggest surprise of all was the view to be obtained from the majority of the grounds. Even as a privileged person, armed with a press pass and given a seat on or about the half way line, one needed binoculars to identify players on the far side of the pitch. Some grounds were better than others but the differences were only marginal. Worst of all from the viewing standpoint was the German pride and joy . . . their new Olympic Stadium in Munchen!

The heart of the problem revolved around the fact that all these super modern stadia were built for all sports, with tracks for athletics around the playing areas. There must have been thousands stood behind the posts at the top of the banking who paid big money for tickets who could not claim to have *seen* the final. All they can say is that they were *there* the day West Germany beat Holland 2-1.

Binoculars I have never liked because they restrict the field of vision. This is the same criticism I have of Television which follows the ball with a close-up lens. If you are going to a football match to see it live *you have got to be close enough* to identify the players with normal vision and at the Olympic Stadiums in Berlin and Munich it just couldn't be done.

Adding a touch of grim humour to this situation, the press were given a handout in Dortmund regarding the modern stadium built there. It said something to this effect . . . "Of course the Westfalenstadion is a *mere* football ground" (My italics). A mere football ground!

Dortmund was the only ground at which spectators could really see.

ICIENCY S A MYTH

says

ERIC BATTY

A view of the Munich Stadium prior to the start of the World Cup Final between West Germany and Holland.

My criticisms may sound like sacrilege to fans the world over who would have given their right arms to have been there. But looking back on it all and bearing in mind the pathetic standards of play at most games I saw, I now feel that the people sitting a home watching three games a day on TV had it best.

Though I had the advantage of being able to see what I wanted to see with my own eyes, albeit from around 200 yards range, the fans at home in England saw far more in terms of quantity than did those on the spot. For one thing the German TV stations did not show anything like the number of games seen in Britain and most of Western Europe. All they showed very often was the West German game and one of the other matches played that day and all too often I was there in the flesh to see one of the televised games.

The only way to answer this real criticism is to lay down in FIFA statutes that in future, World Cup games will only be staged at grounds that are purpose-built for FOOTBALL. That after all is what the World Cup is about. Or is it?

The other aspect of the World Cup which now comes across hard and clear concerns the basic approach of FIFA towards money. My views hardened after talking to different people at the World Cup, mostly about TV rights and what FIFA charged.

For example I learned with disgust that FIFA asked so much money that the Japanese could not afford to screen the World Cup as it happened. Belatedly, I was told, several big industrial Companies in Japan had put up the money to enable the Final to be shown "live" but that right cost around £110,000. For one match . . . to one country!

Planned

Readers sympathising with Japanese fans will no doubt be pleased to learn that in Tokio and Osako, etc., Japanese fans will eventually see the World Cup at prices their TV stations can afford. Commencing the Sunday after the final, the Japanese planned to screen a film of the opening games between Brazil and Yugoslavia. Then each week, another game will be screened, taking them to Christmas and beyond.

Another aspect of this business acumen FIFA has developed came to light through a photograph I saw in "Der Kicker", the biggest West German soccer magazine. This photo was of a poster in New York . . . "WORLD CUP SOCCER" it said in big letters. "No home TV" . . . 25 outstanding matches live via satellite from Germany . . . June 13 thru July 7 . . . Madison Square Garden.

Apparently the games were also shown at other selected centres in the USA and Canada with admission prices ranging from US $7.50 (about £3) to US $12.50 (about £5) for the final.

My view is that FIFA have got their priorities all wrong. As the World ruling body they should set out to encourage people to play and watch football in countries like the U.S.A., Canada and Japan and this means showing the big games live on TV at peak viewing times.

They should not, as it appears they did in North America, sell out to profit-making third parties, nor as in the case of Japan, ask TV fees comparable with those charged to the British, the Dutch, the French and the Italians.

The same can and should be said about the developing nations of Africa and Asia . . . if they have TV. FIFA should give them the rights at give-away prices or even free of charge in some special cases.

Of course, my views are those a football minded man who wants to see the game develop, grow and spread around the world. I want to see it bigger and better than ever before with kids across the world from Auckland to Albuquerque not only encouraged to play but given pitches to play on.

The crunch is the familiar problem between football and business. Clearly it is the businessmen who are running things now.

READERS' FORUM...

WITH reference to your panel's selection of a World XI and your published comments regarding certain other players in the tournament, I feel I have no alternative but to take the greatest possible exception to your incredibly uninformed, nay, contemptible remarks about Wolfgang Overath.

To anybody who knows the game of association football intimately, it was patently obvious for the third World Cup in succession that Overath is one of the world's finest midfield players. Overath was the man who made West Germany play. Overath was the man who covered every square inch of the field in his team's cause. Overath was the man available every single time a team-mate found himself in difficulties. Overath was the man who tore defences apart with a breathtaking, almost unbelievable forty, fifty and sixty yard passes. Overath was the man who eased the pressure in the German defence with superb acceleration allied to a vast reservoir of skill.

It was so apparent that it was when West Germany channelled their play through Overath that they looked at their most dangerous—the final pass, the immaculate one-twos, the space creating runs (unnoticed by all but the cognisant) and the finishing when the opportunity arose.

Weakness

Overath's main weakness is that he is not particularly strong in the tackle. I submit, gentlemen, that none of the world's great players ever have been. One needs only call to mind the names of Jim Baxter, John White, Danny Blanchflower, Pele, Di Stefano Didi, Bobby Charlton, Tom Finney, and from a past age men such as Alex James, Jimmy Mason, Billy Steel and Raich Carter. None of those players could be called great "ball-winners" but each and every one of them was acknowledged for what he did with the ball. Surely this is the only criterion by which to judge the calibre of players other than defenders.

It is somehow rather squalid for a magazine with a reputation as fine as yours to cheapen itself with sarcastically critical remarks about a player who, thrice now, has emerged as a prince among midfield men. It would have been less unjust had Overath been in actuality disappointing in the World Cup. The truth is that, amidst initial controversy, Wolfgang Overath proved himself beyond all doubt—West Germany's matches against Australia, Yugoslavia, Sweden (2nd half) and Poland were ruled from his relentless midfield beat by Overath. Probably some of the best football played during the tournament was that played by West Germany in the first half of the Final. During the thirty minutes before the interval Overath was magnificent. In the second half with the Germans so heavily committed to defence Overath faded—defence, after all, is hardly his game.

I know Overath is a great player, Alf Ramsey, Jock Stein and Helmut Schoen know it, everyone who knows anything about football knows it. Willie Ormond has said so. Willie Ormond, you may remember, was the man who did rather well in the World Cup, much to the chagrin of all you so-called experts who inhabit the country to the south of Carter Bar.

Do not be so openly ignorant about the game, gentlemen, recognise Wolfgang Overath for what he is—a midfield player of the highest class with magic in his left foot. If you cannot see this then I suggest you turn your attention elsewhere in the field of sport, for football can well do without such manifestly unfair comment.

Alan Clark,
Coupar Angus,
Scotland.

WHILE it is against my habit of questioning the views of colleagues on the controversial subject of soccer, I cannot resist the temptation to refer to two different articles in your August issue.

I do not doubt the sincerity of Arthur Rotmil but I am amazed at his innocence in claiming that "these Poles are basically amateurs". As we all know, from personal observations, none of the Socialist Bloc countries have even "basic amateurism" at top level—Deyna and Lato are just as well "looked after" by their clubs and associations as their colleagues in Prague, Budapest, Sofia and elsewhere.

Why the writer decided to meddle into politics in the course of his article is only known to him. However, his statement that the "ruling political group is the Workers Party and not the Communist Party, as falsely assumed," (in Poland) reveals stupendous ignorance of Eastern European affairs. The two parties are the one and the same—ask anybody in Warsaw. To qualify his statement with "Poland has no Communist traditions" merely adds to the writer's credibility gap.

Wisdom

The other article in the August issue was by Les Vernon, thanking providence for his wisdom in avoiding Germany during the World Cup.

While it's true that the World Cup was "under-organised" one suspects this was done deliberately. Two years ago the world Press blasted the Munich Olympics as a "Teutonic extravaganza" out to impress an impressionable audience. Everything was too good, too lavish, too precise—until the tragic slaying of the Israelis in the village.

Now people criticise the organisers for the presence of guard-dogs and other security measures; would they have preferred yet another terrorist massacre?

Telexes

As one journalist who visited six of the nine venue cities, dealt with the Press liaison offices everywhere, had to use telephones and telexes, had to travel by plane and train thousands of kilometres, let me honestly say that the organisation was most satisfactory and in many regards superior to the one in 1966 in England.

The avalanche of criticism from a segment of the British Press is hard to fathom unless it is motivated by some deep lying bitterness over having missed out on the finals.

But it was Poland, not West Germany, that robbed England of this honour, so why take it out on the organisers?

Andrew Dettre,
Sydney,
Australia.

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: **Readers' Forum, World Soccer, 79 Temple Chambers, London, EC4Y OEX**

LEAGUE TABLES

End of season round-up

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Voest Linz	**32**	**18**	**11**	**3**	**51**	**28**	**47**
SW Inns.	32	19	8	5	57	21	46
Rapid Vienna	32	18	9	5	74	33	45
Austria/WAC	32	16	7	9	59	37	39
Sturm Graz	32	14	6	12	28	35	34
DSV Alpine	32	13	7	12	51	48	33
Admira/Wacker	32	11	9	12	50	48	31
Austria Salz.	32	10	11	11	35	35	31
Linzer ASK	32	11	8	13	38	48	30
Wiener SK	32	10	9	13	43	60	29
Simmering	32	10	8	14	49	47	28
Grazer AK	32	9	10	13	31	41	28
Eisenstadt	32	11	6	15	36	52	28
Austria Kl'furt	32	8	11	13	33	44	27
VSV Radenthein	32	6	14	12	33	40	26
Vienna	32	8	8	16	38	54	24
Vorarlberg	32	5	8	19	31	66	18

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Ujpest Dozsa	**30**	**18**	**6**	**6**	**75**	**33**	**42**
Ferencvaros	30	15	9	6	54	29	39
Raba ETO	30	15	8	7	43	35	38
Videoton	30	15	7	8	39	31	37
Tatabanya	30	14	9	7	40	37	37
Honved	30	14	6	10	54	36	34
Pecs	30	12	10	8	29	26	34
Vasas	30	9	14	7	35	31	32
Salgotarjan	30	9	13	8	25	29	31
MTK Budapest	30	11	6	13	44	41	28
Csepel	30	10	7	13	35	43	27
Zalaegerszeg	30	10	4	16	28	44	24
Haladas	30	8	7	15	31	47	23
Egyetertes	30	4	15	11	25	48	23
Szeged	30	5	10	15	28	45	20
Dorog	30	2	7	21	24	54	11

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Levski Spartak	**30**	**21**	**5**	**4**	**58**	**30**	**47**
CSKA Sofia	30	19	8	3	54	27	46
Lokomotiv P'div.	30	13	8	9	49	36	34
Etar	30	13	7	10	38	30	33
Locomotiv Sofia	30	12	9	9	35	32	33
Akademik	30	11	10	9	37	38	32
Botev Plovdiv	30	12	6	12	42	48	30
Slavia	30	10	8	12	36	33	28
Tscherno More	30	11	6	13	42	42	28
Thrakia	30	7	13	10	36	42	27
Pirin	30	11	5	14	29	43	27
Jantra	30	10	5	15	40	49	25
Pernik	30	7	11	12	28	45	25
Spartak Pleven	30	7	10	13	32	43	24
Beroe	30	7	7	16	50	46	21
ESK Spartak	30	7	6	17	26	48	20

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Anderlecht	**30**	**17**	**7**	**6**	**72**	**38**	**41**
Antwerp	30	15	9	6	48	33	39
R W Molenbeek	30	13	13	4	50	25	39
Standard Liege	30	12	10	8	43	30	34
F C Bruges	30	13	6	11	61	43	32
F C Liege	30	11	9	10	42	42	31
Malinois	30	10	11	9	34	35	31
C S Bruges	30	8	11	11	46	48	27
Waregem	30	8	11	11	38	49	27
Beveren / Wass	30	7	13	10	24	30	27
Beringen	30	9	8	13	29	48	26
Diest	30	8	10	12	44	51	26
Beerschot	30	8	10	12	36	47	26
Berchem	30	7	12	11	33	45	26
Lierse SK	30	6	13	11	35	51	25
St Trond	30	6	11	13	30	50	23

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
St. Etienne	**38**	**23**	**9**	**6**	**74**	**40**	**66**
Nantes	38	19	9	10	63	41	58
Angers	38	17	9	12	77	57	54
Lyon	38	18	11	9	64	51	55
Nice	38	16	10	12	71	55	54
Reims	38	16	7	15	67	62	50
Sochaux	38	17	8	13	59	46	49
Strasbourg	38	13	11	14	62	67	45
Nimes	38	13	15	10	41	37	44
Lens	38	14	8	16	58	64	44
Metz	38	14	7	17	53	53	43
Marseille	38	13	9	16	58	62	43
Rennes	38	16	8	14	42	47	43
Bordeaux	38	11	12	15	55	57	42
Bastia	38	14	8	16	44	49	41
Monaco	38	11	11	16	64	73	41
Troyes	38	11	11	16	52	62	41
Nancy	38	10	13	15	51	67	41
Paris	38	9	9	20	54	79	36
Sedan	38	8	9	21	42	80	28

One extra point bonus given for three or more goals scored in a match

TOP: Referee Reg Matthewson sends off Billy Bremner (left) and Kevin Keegan at Wembley during the FA Charity Shield match. BELOW: The angry outburst from both players, who took off their shirts and threw them to the ground.

LEAGUE TABLES

End of season round-up

EIRE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Cork Celtic	**26**	**18**	**6**	**2**	**50**	**25**	**42**
Bohemians	26	18	2	6	56	18	38
Cork Hibs.	26	16	6	4	47	23	38
Finn Harps	26	15	5	6	51	27	35
Waterford	26	11	7	8	55	36	29
Dundalk	26	12	4	10	41	36	28
Shamrock Rovers	26	11	5	10	31	33	27
St. Patrick's Ath.	26	10	2	14	29	45	22
Limerick	26	7	6	13	32	45	20
Home Farm	26	6	8	12	19	40	20
Athlone Town	26	8	3	15	25	38	19
Drogheda	26	7	5	14	39	59	19
Sligo Rovers	26	6	2	18	28	51	14
Shelbourne	26	4	5	17	31	58	13

N. IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Coleraine	**22**	**16**	**3**	**3**	**41**	**20**	**35**
Portadown	22	13	4	5	51	20	30
Crusaders	22	14	2	6	48	32	30
Linfield	22	10	6	6	46	25	26
Glenavon	22	11	2	9	33	35	24
Ballymena U.	22	10	3	9	34	26	23
Bangor	22	10	3	9	40	28	23
Ards	22	9	4	9	42	37	22
Glentoran	22	8	2	12	28	39	18
Larne	22	7	3	12	31	50	17
Cliftonville	22	3	3	16	20	56	9
Distillery	22	2	3	17	24	70	7

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Lazio	**30**	**18**	**7**	**5**	**45**	**23**	**43**
Juventus	30	16	9	5	50	26	41
Naples	30	12	12	6	35	28	36
Inter-Milan	30	12	11	7	47	33	35
Torino	30	10	14	6	27	24	34
Fiorentina	30	10	13	7	32	26	33
AC Milan	30	11	8	11	34	36	30
AS Roma	30	10	9	11	29	28	29
Bologna	30	6	17	7	35	36	29
Cagliari	30	7	14	9	25	32	28
Cesena	30	6	15	9	25	28	27
Lanerossi Vicenza	30	7	12	11	22	37	26
Verona	30	8	9	13	28	35	25
Foggia	30	6	12	12	20	34	24
Sampdoria*	30	5	13	12	27	34	20
Genoa	30	4	9	17	16	37	17

*three points deducted

LUXEMBURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Jeunesse Esch	**22**	**18**	**2**	**2**	**54**	**18**	**38**
Red Boys D'dange	22	15	2	5	50	27	32
Spora	22	13	4	5	53	25	30
Avenir Beggen	22	11	4	7	49	34	26
Aris Bonnevoie	22	11	3	8	43	28	25
Union	22	8	6	8	38	34	22
Etzella	22	9	3	10	33	37	21
Fola	22	8	5	9	40	46	21
Red Star	22	8	4	10	29	34	20
Rumelingen	22	5	6	11	35	47	16
Stade	22	3	3	16	26	50	9
The National	22	1	2	19	12	82	4

Chelsea's new boy, David Hay, in a race with Les O'Neill of Carlisle. The First Division newcomers Carlisle won this opening game of the season, 2-0 at Stamford Bridge.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Feyenoord	**34**	**25**	**6**	**3**	**96**	**28**	**56**
Twente	34	23	8	3	65	27	54
Ajax Amsterdam	34	21	9	4	88	30	51
PSV Eindhoven	34	20	9	5	96	40	49
Amsterdam	34	17	9	8	49	36	43
Telstar	34	12	12	10	53	50	36
AZ,67 Alkmaar	34	10	13	11	37	39	33
Sparta Rotterdam	34	10	12	12	37	45	32
Utrecht	34	14	4	16	53	65	32
Go Ahead Eagles	34	11	10	13	44	58	32
MVV	34	8	14	12	36	52	30
Haarlem	34	10	6	18	33	46	26
Den Haag	34	8	10	16	29	53	26
De Graafschap	34	8	10	16	43	75	26
Roda JC	34	6	10	18	31	56	22
NAC Breda	34	6	10	18	44	72	22
NEC Nijmegen	34	6	9	19	33	51	21
Groningen	34	7	7	20	40	84	21

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Barcelona	**34**	**21**	**8**	**5**	**75**	**24**	**50**
Atletico Madrid	34	18	6	10	50	31	42
Real Zaragoza	34	16	8	10	51	38	40
Real Sociedad	34	16	7	11	46	45	39
Atletico Bilbao	34	15	7	12	35	31	37
Granada	34	12	12	10	34	35	36
Malaga	34	12	12	10	31	32	36
Real Madrid	34	13	8	13	48	38	34
Espanol	34	13	8	13	34	38	34
Valencia	34	13	7	14	41	33	33
Las Palmas	34	14	5	15	28	35	33
Celta Vigo	34	12	6	16	43	49	30
Gijon	34	13	4	17	49	59	30
Elche	34	11	7	16	25	33	29
Murcia	34	10	9	15	27	37	29
Castellon	34	9	11	14	28	46	29
Santander	34	8	11	15	36	54	27
Oviedo	34	9	6	19	29	52	24

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Zurich	**26**	**20**	**5**	**1**	**67**	**20**	**45**
Grasshoppers	26	12	9	5	41	27	33
Servette	26	12	8	6	49	35	32
Winterthur	26	13	6	7	42	29	32
Basel	26	13	3	10	57	39	29
Young Boys	26	10	8	8	52	38	28
Neuchatel Xamax	26	10	6	10	38	38	26
Lausanne	26	9	8	9	45	48	26
St Gallen	26	10	5	11	38	48	25
Sion	26	5	12	9	24	31	22
Chenois	26	7	8	11	30	48	22
Lugano	26	4	9	13	20	44	17
Chaux-de-Fonds	26	3	10	13	28	51	16
Chiasso	26	3	7	17	18	53	11

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Hajduk Split	**34**	**18**	**9**	**7**	**52**	**26**	**45**
Velez	34	19	7	8	54	34	45
Red Star Belgrade	34	19	5	10	72	46	43
Partizan	34	12	13	9	41	33	37
O.F.K. Belgrade	34	13	9	12	35	32	35
Celik	34	12	11	11	30	28	35
Dinamo	34	12	9	13	34	33	33
Zeljeznicar	34	10	12	12	39	39	32
Sloboda	34	8	16	10	34	38	32
Olimpija	34	11	10	13	35	42	32
Vardar	34	12	7	15	38	40	31
Vojvodina	34	10	11	13	33	38	31
Proleter	34	13	5	16	36	47	31
Sarajevo	34	11	9	14	29	41	31
Bor	34	13	5	16	34	47	31
Radnicki Nis	34	11	9	14	29	43	31
Borac	34	8	14	12	42	43	30
N.K. Zagreb	34	9	9	16	28	45	27

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Slovan Bratislava	**30**	**15**	**7**	**8**	**56**	**36**	**37**
Dukla Prague	30	14	7	9	42	34	35
Slavia Prague	30	16	2	12	47	38	34
Banik Ostrava	30	14	6	10	40	43	34
ZVL Zilina	30	14	2	14	39	42	30
Union Teplice	30	11	7	12	42	39	29
Spartak Trnava	30	8	13	9	32	31	29
Sparta Prague	30	11	7	12	37	39	29
VSS Kosice	30	11	7	12	41	45	29
Zbrojovka Brno	30	12	5	13	33	37	29
AC Nitra	30	10	9	11	38	59	29
Bohemians	30	10	8	12	43	42	28
Inter Bratislava	30	11	6	13	45	46	28
Skoda Pilzen	30	10	8	12	38	46	28
L'motiv Kosice	30	10	7	13	50	47	27
Tatran Presov	30	8	9	13	35	43	25

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Olymp. Piraeus	**34**	**26**	**7**	**1**	**102**	**14**	**59**
Panathinaikos	34	24	6	4	76	27	54
Aris Salonika	34	21	6	7	48	29	48
PAOK Salonika	34	16	11	7	61	31	43
AEK Athens	34	16	8	10	53	36	40
Panachaiki	34	13	12	9	41	35	38
Iraklis	34	10	13	11	40	36	33
Panionios	34	13	7	14	41	44	33
Larissa	34	11	10	13	31	40	32
Ethnikos	34	10	9	14	36	41	29
Aigaleo	34	11	7	16	28	44	29
Kavala	34	11	6	17	32	44	28
Apoel Nicosia	34	11	5	18	38	48	27
Olymp. Volos	34	9	9	16	28	44	27
Panseraikos	34	11	5	18	28	54	27
Fostir	34	7	9	17	23	61	23
Apollon Athens	34	7	8	19	23	61	23
Apollon Salonika	34	5	8	21	17	59	18

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Sporting Lisbon	**30**	**23**	**3**	**4**	**96**	**21**	**49**
Benfica	30	21	5	4	68	23	47
Setubal	30	19	7	4	67	21	45
Porto	30	18	7	5	43	22	43
Belenenses	30	17	6	7	56	34	40
Guimaraes	30	10	11	9	36	35	31
Farense	30	9	8	13	35	38	26
Boavista	30	9	7	14	35	43	25
CUF Barreiro	30	8	9	13	33	44	25
Academica	30	8	7	15	29	45	23
Olhanense	30	8	6	16	35	69	22
Leixoes	30	9	3	18	36	56	21
Beira-Mar	30	7	7	16	35	57	21
Barreirense	30	6	9	15	19	42	21
Oriental	30	10	1	19	35	79	21
Montijo	30	7	6	17	32	61	20

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Fenerbahce	**30**	**15**	**13**	**2**	**39**	**15**	**43**
Besiktas	30	13	14	3	34	19	40
Boluspor	30	12	15	3	33	21	39
Eskisehirspor	30	14	8	8	34	24	36
Galatasaray	30	13	9	8	29	16	35
Altay	30	11	9	10	23	22	31
Adanaspor	30	8	13	9	20	26	29
Samsunspor	30	10	8	12	24	30	28
Bursaspor	30	8	12	10	19	25	28
Adanademirspor	30	9	9	12	19	21	27
Kayserispor	30	8	11	11	18	24	27
Giressunspor	30	8	10	12	28	32	26
Goztepe	30	8	10	12	24	28	26
Ankaragucu	30	10	6	14	28	36	26
Mersin Idman	30	8	6	16	15	27	22
Vefa	30	5	7	18	16	37	17

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
F C Magdeburg	**26**	**16**	**7**	**3**	**50**	**27**	**39**
Carl Zeiss Jena	26	16	4	6	55	26	36
Dynamo Dresden	26	15	5	6	55	40	35
Vorwarts F'furt	26	13	8	5	48	27	34
Locomotiv L'zig	26	11	8	7	49	35	30
Berliner FC	26	12	3	11	42	41	27
Hansa Rostock	26	10	5	11	37	35	25
S'ring Zwickau	26	10	5	11	37	41	25
Karl-Marx-Stadt	26	7	10	9	42	46	24
Stahl Riesa	26	7	9	10	25	42	23
Wismut Aue	26	7	8	11	29	38	22
Rot Weiss Erfurt	26	5	9	12	27	39	19
Chemie Leipzig	26	3	9	14	22	39	15
Energie Cottbus	26	1	8	17	16	58	10

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Bayern Munich	**34**	**20**	**9**	**5**	**95**	**53**	**49**
Bor. M'gladbach	34	21	6	7	93	52	48
Fortuna D'dorf	34	16	9	9	61	47	41
Eintracht F'furt	34	15	11	8	63	50	41
FC Koln	34	16	7	11	69	56	39
Kaiserslautern	34	15	8	11	80	69	38
Schalke 04	34	16	5	13	72	68	37
Hertha Berlin	34	11	11	12	56	60	33
VfB Stuttgart	34	12	7	15	58	57	31
Kickers O'bach	34	11	9	14	56	62	31
Werder Bremen	34	9	13	12	48	56	31
Hamburg SV	34	13	5	16	53	62	31
Rotweiss Essen	34	10	11	13	56	70	31
VfL Bochum	34	9	12	13	45	57	30
MSV Duisberg	34	11	7	16	42	56	29
Wuppertal SV	34	8	9	17	42	65	25
Fortuna Koln	34	8	9	17	46	79	25
Hannover 96	34	6	10	18	50	66	22

More trouble at Wembley during the FA Charity Shield match as players from Leeds United and Liverpool get involved.

MARSH

●Continued from page 23

Marsh never truly set the football world alight last season, and his reign as English soccer's golden boy is now at an end. He will be thirty in October, and even if he fully recovers from his cartilage operation, even his greatest fan would probably admit that his best days are fast drawing to an uneventful close.

On the other hand, if he is able to regain complete fitness, he possesses enough skill to win at least one more major honour before he either retires or drifts into obscurity. But if he is not fully fit perhaps it would be better for him to call it a day. As Aldous Huxley once said: "Ending is better than mending."

Of course he looks forward to the future with great optimism.

"Okay, so I'll be thirty soon, but if you believe in yourself nothing is beyond your capabilities. But frankly I haven't really given the future a thought. Too many people nowadays are so preoccupied with what's going to happen next week, that they neglect the present.

"Look at Denis Law. He is thirty-four, and still going strong. You know, if a player's got enough skill, there is no reason why he should worry at all about his age.

"And remember this: When I got kicked in the ear playing for Fulham at Leicester some years ago, the specialists said my career was finished, because my balance had been impaired. I overcame that hurdle, and I aim to do the same today."

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Ruch Chorzow ...	**30**	**14**	**13**	**3**	**53**	**23**	**41**
Gornik Zabrze ...	30	16	6	8	43	27	38
Stal Mielec	30	13	11	6	41	24	37
Legia Warsaw ...	30	12	10	8	38	28	34
Wisla Krakow ...	30	11	12	7	35	27	34
LKS Lodz	30	9	11	10	24	28	29
ROW Rybnik ...	30	9	11	10	24	28	29
Pogon	30	8	13	9	28	38	29
Gwardia Warsaw	30	7	14	9	26	27	28
Lech Poznan	30	8	12	10	25	26	28
Zagl. Sosnowiec .	30	10	7	13	22	31	27
Polonia	30	7	13	10	23	34	27
Slask	30	9	9	12	21	34	27
Szombierki	30	8	10	12	26	31	26
Odra Opole	30	6	12	12	25	37	24
Zagl. Walbrzych .	30	7	8	15	22	33	22

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Uni. Craiova ...	**34**	**20**	**5**	**9**	**63**	**37**	**45**
Din. Bucharest ...	34	18	8	8	60	34	44
Steagul Rosu ...	34	15	9	10	36	25	39
Constanta	34	16	6	12	47	33	38
UT Arad	34	15	6	13	42	45	36
Steaua	34	13	9	12	46	42	35
Poli. Timisoara .	34	12	10	12	41	45	34
Arges	34	14	6	14	45	57	34
CSM Resita	34	11	11	12	45	40	33
Uni. Cluj	34	12	9	13	35	37	33
Spor. Studentesc .	34	12	8	14	43	41	32
AS Armata	34	13	6	15	38	51	32
Poli. Iassi	34	13	5	16	39	50	31
CFR Cluj	34	11	9	14	40	53	31
Jiul Petroseni ...	34	12	6	16	40	42	30
Rapid	34	9	12	13	30	38	30
SC Bacau	34	12	4	18	40	49	28
Petrolul	34	10	7	17	31	42	27

KAZIMIERZ DEYNA

●Continued from page 10

You scored a brilliant goal in the game against Italy, the arch priests of the "Catenaccio" system. How difficult was it to break down their defence?

The Italian defence is like a never-say-die army. You've got to attack them quickly and spontaneously — it's no good developing your moves in a methodical fashion.

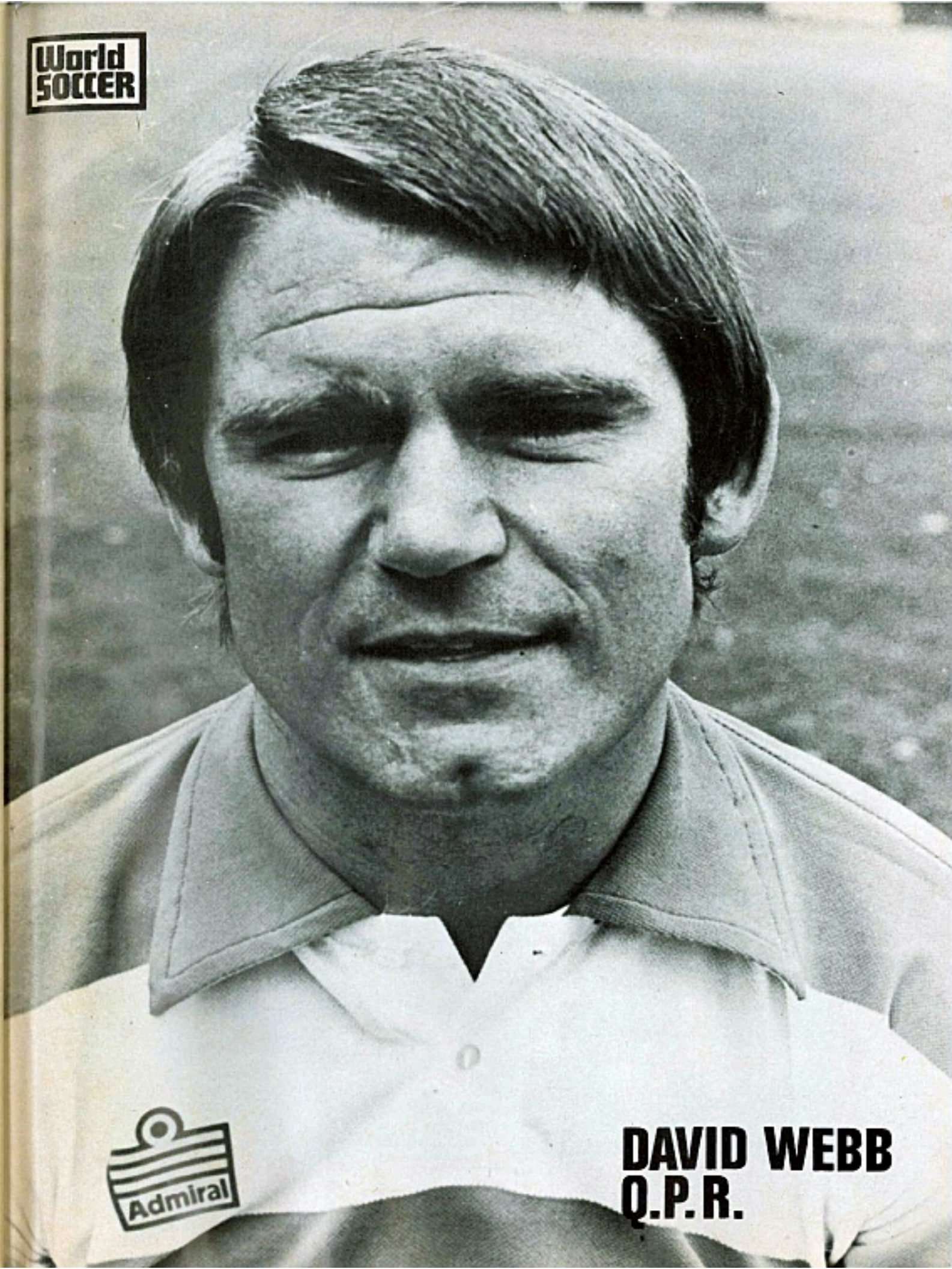
This is where I think we surprised them. They're so used to manning their forces in considerable numbers and soaking up pressure that they are simply not able to cope with a quick-raiding attacking side. So, in essence I think it was our style that bewildered them.

Of course their defensive set-up is so organised that to pierce it is never an easy proposition. But on the other hand if you go at them quickly and adopt an incisive attacking policy there's no reason why they shouldn't be punished. Frankly I found their system so stereotyped that getting past it never presented any real problem.

Finally, prior to the start of the Finals, many critics said that without Lubanski Poland would be easy meat. . . .

They said that because they simply did not appreciate our strength in depth. Obviously with Lubanski in our side, we could possibly have done even better than third place. But the fact that he wasn't playing gave more of a chance to our other forwards. Of course we were underestimated by the Press, but in the long run, we benefited a great deal from this.

Kazimierz Deyna of Poland.


World SOCCER
Admiral
DAVID WEBB
Q.P.R.

EMLYN HUGHES Liverpool